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GAILETY

50¢

...reflecting gay life in the south

Vol. I No. 8

PUBLISHED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

February-March, 1976

Case Dropped When Officers Fail to Appear

The City dismissed charges against the five men arrested Nov. 15 and charged with male solicitation (GAILETY, Dec., 1975). Arguments were slated to be heard Jan. 20 in Division V, but the arresting officers failed to appear.

By request of the defendants' attorney, all records have been expunged.

The defendants (Billy Goodman, Danny Moon, Wayne Newsome, David L. Jones, and a visitor from out-of state) were apprehended as they left a local gay bar. Three who were dressed in women's clothing were originally charged with female impersonation, but charges were dropped later.

The men said they were subjected to extensive verbal

(Continued on page 16)

Bar Owner Charged in Rain Check Arson

Our Position

Formal charges have been placed against Austin McDermott in connection with the burning of the Rain Check Lounge. These formal charges are news and are reported as such. No attempt is made to publish any speculation or allegation.

The innocence or guilt of Austin McDermott is something that this paper cannot assume. As trite as it may sound, GAILETY will rely upon the justice system in this country to establish the truth.

Some people think we should blast McDermott with the present evidence...others feel that the case should be ignored to avoid the bad publicity of gays vs. gays. But to sensationalize or to ignore...both are irresponsible.

As further facts in this case can be made public, you may rest assured that GAILETY will pass them along. Keeping the gay community informed is a fundamental purpose of this newspaper. I hope that we do not disappoint anyone.

- Gary W. Poe, Editor

McDermott Charged

Surrenders Voluntarily

Hearing Set March 8

Austin McDermott, owner of the Body Shop Lounge, was arrested Feb. 20 and charged in connection with the early morning fire that destroyed the Raincheck Lounge, Jan. 6. McDermott surrendered voluntarily to authorities when he learned of the warrant.

Sgt. Bill Gross and Sgt. L. E. Ferguson, officers assigned to the case, stated that the only evidence from the scene of the fire was a can of flammable liquid.

They added that several leads from anonymous phone calls were checked out, but the information leading to the arrest had come "from a former business associate of McDermott's"

An additional warrant has been issued for an accomplice in the case.

Asked to make a statement for GAILETY, McDermott maintained his innocence and asserted that the charges were based upon lies by people with whom he had quarreled.

McDermott appeared before City Court Division 4 at 9 a.m., Feb. 23, where the case was transferred to Division 2 and a continuance issued until March 8.

MGA Fights for Rights of Mississippi Gays

by Fred Harris

Gay Mississippians have a statewide organization fighting for their rights in the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA).

Based in Jackson, the Alliance has organized chapters in three Mississippi cities and has additional members throughout the state.

The first chapter was started in 1973 by students

at Mississippi State University in Starkville. A Jackson chapter was formed in 1974, and a third group was established a year later in Parchman, site of the state prison.

A fourth chapter is currently in the process of forming at the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg.

More than 200 persons are currently on the Alliance's mailing list, says Eddie Sandifer, MGA state secretary. This does not reflect the organization's total membership, he adds, since some Alliance supporters don't wish to be on the gay mailing list.

To keep its membership and other interested persons informed of its activities, the Alliance publishes a monthly newsletter.

It also has prepared an informational pamphlet about its purposes, an MGA bibliography of gay books and related materials, and a directory of Mississippi agencies which provide services for gay people.

The Mississippi Gay Alliance was founded to promote the right of individual privacy, its brochure states, especially where the private

sexual behavior of consenting adults is involved. It offers gay Mississippians an organization within which to work for legal and social change.

Within this general goal, the MGA has four specific objectives. These are: (1) obtaining full equal rights for gay men and women; (2) providing counseling for homosexuals and their families; (3) educating Mississippians about homosexuality and gay people, and related to this

(Continued on page 2)

Soap Opera to Use Gay Story

Lin Bolen, vice-president of NBC-TV daytime programming, has reached an agreement with delegates from National Gay Task Force to encourage a gay storyline in "Another World."

The meeting between NBC executives and NGTF representatives was the third, with future meetings to be scheduled regularly. Purpose is to change negative portrayals of gays (i.e., that of rapists, child molesters, etc.)

Possible storylines for use in other series are being solicited by Ginny Vida. "The idea is to use whatever fa-

miliarity you may have with primetime or daytime network series by thinking up specific ways in which gay characters or issues could fit into the format of particular shows."

Story ideas (about a paragraph in length) should be sent to: Ginny Vida, NGTF Story Line Project, 80 Fifth Ave., Rm. 506, NY, NY 10012.

A documentary of the gay movement is also under discussion among Russ Tornabene of NBC news, Al Perlmutter, head of documentary productions, and gay media representatives.

Female Applicants Delay Membership; Dues Not Pro-Rated

Following the Queen's Men's announcement that women would be invited to apply for membership in the traditionally all male organization, there have been 10 or 12 inquiries, according to Mike Rollins, entertainment chairman, but no applications.

According to the by-laws, dues of \$50 a year must be paid in full no matter when a member joins. Membership renewal is every May, and Rollins said that some applications from women are expected at that time.

Vatican Called 'Unenlightened'

The gay Catholic organization, Dignity, has taken strong exception to the Vatican's recent pronouncement that all homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered" and has called for the Church to study more carefully its position on homosexuality.

The Vatican document "does little more than repeat the traditional, unenlightened condemnation of homosexual expression," as well as all other sexual behavior outside of marriage, Dignity charged. It ignores current biological and psychological data on homosexuality as well as the findings of many Catholic theologians.

Dignity's statement followed the Vatican's Jan. 12 issuance of a "Declaration on Certain Questions Concerning Sexual Ethics." This said that while "incurable" homosexuals must be "treated with understanding, homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered and can in no case be approved of."

The Vatican statement said that a distinction is drawn, "and it seems with some reason" between homosexuals whose tendency is transitory and "not curable" and homosexuals who are such because of "some kind of innate instinct or a pathological constitution judged to be incurable."

"In regard to this second category of subjects," the Vatican said, "some people conclude that their tendency is so natural that it justifies in their case homosexual relations within a sincere communion of life and love analogous to marriage, insofar

as such homosexuals feel incapable of enduring a solitary life.

"In the pastoral field, these homosexuals must certainly be treated with understanding and sustained in the hope of overcoming their personal difficulties and their inability to fit into society," the statement said. Their culpability (guilt) will be judged with prudence. But no pastoral method can be employed which would give moral justification to these acts on the grounds that they would be consonant with the condition of such people.

"According to the objective moral order," the statement continued, "homosexual relations are acts which lack an essential and indispensable finality. In Sacred Scripture, they are condemned as a serious depravity and even presented as the consequence of rejecting God."

"This judgement of Scripture does not, of course, permit us to conclude that all who suffer from this anomaly are personally responsible for it, but it does attest to the fact that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered and can in no case be approved of."

Bans Masturbation

In addition to repeating the ban on homosexual acts, the Vatican statement also strongly criticized masturbation and all heterosexual behavior outside of marriage. Premarital relations usually exclude the possibility of children, the statement said, while masturbation is "linked with the loss of a sense of God, with the corruption of morals engendered by the commercialization of vice, and with the unrestrained licentiousness of so many public entertainments and publications, as well as with the neglect of modesty."

The statement summed up by saying that "masturbation is an intrinsically and seriously disordered act...."

In responding to the Vatican statement, Dignity said that recent findings by both Church and scientific scholars show that homosexuality is a natural variation of sexual behavior found throughout history in all species.

"We maintain further, with many competent theologians and scripture scholars," continued Dignity, "that it is intrinsically good when it is expressed in an ethically responsible, unselfish and Christian manner, as all sexuality must be."

The Vatican's citation of Scripture as clearly condemnatory of all homosexual expression fails to take into account the most recent

studies of scripture scholars as D. S. Bailey and the Rev. John McNeill, S.J., Dignity said. These scholars and others have found that the supposed scriptural condemnations are based on mistranslations, serious misinterpretations, and cultural and scientific limitations.

The Dignity statement concluded by saying that the Vatican pronouncement was "extremely disappointing" to responsible theologians and pastors. It called upon the Church to more adequately study the question of homosexuality and its implications for the Church and society.

MGA Has 4-Point Objective

(Continued from page 1)

(4) promoting better relationships between the state's gay community and the citizenry at large.

As part of their effort to educate the public about homosexuality, MGA members have participated in television programs in Tupelo and Meridian and on radio broadcasts in Jackson, Starkville, and Hattiesburg. They also have met with college students at Jackson State College, Millsaps, and Hinds Junior College in Jackson.

The Alliance provides information to the Psychiatry Department of the University of Mississippi Medical Center and speaks to each new class of the University's mid-wifery program.

In addition to its educational activities, the MGA looks into charges of harassment by local police and related problems. It deals directly with the agency involved when possible and tries to resolve the problem without going to court. It also works with the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi and the Mississippi Prisoners Defense Committee in alleviating the plight of gay prisoners.

So far, the Alliance has dealt mainly with local government officials and agencies, Sandifer said. In the near future, however, an MGA representative will register as a lobbyist with the Mississippi state legislature and work for legal reform of the state's laws.

State Convention

Each fall, the Alliance holds a state convention for all of its members. The 1975 convention, which was held at the Jackson Unitarian Church, lasted two and a half days, from Friday, Nov. 21, through Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23.

Programs at the convention included a panel on gay self-

Bar Owner States Problem Resolved; Bias Rumor False

The request one recent Sunday night by Jack Pirtle's manager that cars, whose occupants were in B.J.'s Lounge on Poplar, be moved, was not, as has been rumored, a sudden prejudice toward gays, according to lounge owner Bette Hefner.

Cars had been parked right up to the door of Pirtle's, and the manager was unable to get in or out of the door. She asked only that the cars in front of her door be moved.

Cars can still be parked along the side of B.J.'s, as usual.

images, a discussion of peer counseling techniques led by a Pastoral Counseling Center minister, and a workshop on organizing new MGA chapters. A business meeting was also held, at which new state officers were elected, the MGA constitution amended, and the upcoming Jackson City Council elections discussed.

Social activities at the convention included a "get acquainted" dinner and mixer Friday night and a pot luck supper on Saturday.

In late June of each year, the Alliance sponsors events to celebrate Gay Pride Week, which commemorates the Stonewall demonstrations of 1969. In 1975, the MGA held a picnic and rally in a Jackson park which featured New York gay activist Marty Manford as speaker. The year before, the group sponsored a bake sale, Sandifer said.

One project which the Alliance is currently working on is a gay crisis and information hotline. This will be based in Jackson and provide counseling and other services for gays across the state.

While the Alliance has already had some impact in both the gay and straight communities, it is eager to expand its membership base among Mississippi homosexuals. It especially wishes to involve more of the state's gay women, blacks, and transvestites.

"We must close ranks in the gay community if we are to have an effective voice," Sandifer says. "We do have political power, but we must be united to make it count."

Membership in the Mississippi Gay Alliance is open to all persons who support the group's goals. State dues are \$5 a year, while the Jackson chapter has dues of \$2 per month. Further information may be obtained by writing the Mississippi Gay Alliance, P. O. Box 8342, Jackson, MS 39204.

Lesbian Prohibited From Military Duty During Proceedings

Sgt. Miriam Ben Shalom is being prohibited from serving on active duty while the U.S. Army Reserves conducts formal discharge proceedings against her.

Despite an excellent service record as the only female drill instructor with the 84th Training Division of Milwaukee, WI, Sergeant Ben Shalom is being considered for discharge because of her homosexuality, according to Will Orris, press secretary.

Sergeant Ben Shalom has been open about her lesbianism from the beginning and has insisted that the topic of homosexuality be discussed in military human relations classes.

She maintains that she is not defending the military institutions, but her legal and civil rights "to work and to live her life in privacy and with dignity."

Memphis Gay History

Local Activism Practically Non-Existent In 1970's

by Fred Harris

Shortly after the 1969 Stonewall riots, two gay activists named Morty Manford and Lew Todd toured the South to see what impact the gay liberation movement had made here. Tennessee was included in this wide-ranging tour, and in their account, *Dixie Diary*, they had the following to say about Memphis.

"The whole city is a dark closet, with entrapment, harassment, and copying of license plate numbers from cars parked outside bars," said Todd. "It's the Bible Belt, controlled by rednecks....the gays here talk of themselves as queers and degenerates. If I were going to come to Memphis on business, just staying over night as a visitor, I'd go to a movie and forget the gay scene completely."

To this, his partner added about the city, "Forget it. Many raids, police beatings, and if you're arrested, your name appears pronto in the papers. We literally ran away."

Such was the impression that Memphis made at the beginning of the 1970s.

A key development in most large American cities during the early and mid-70s was the formation of gay activist groups dedicated to ending legal and social oppression. While flourishing especially in East and West coast cities, they took hold in the South as well, with groups being formed in Atlanta, Louisville, Knoxville, and Birmingham, among other cities.

In Memphis during most of this time, gay activism was practically non-existent. Homosexuals here were still struggling for permission to dance in their bars, a right most communities had acknowledged for years.

The gay liberation movement did not go totally unnoticed in Memphis, however, and in early 1972, about a dozen gay men and women met at a private home to discuss the possible establishment of an activist group in the city. Since several group members belonged to the Unitarian Church, it was decided to request use of the church's facilities for meetings. This was done, says group member Martha Brummett, but the Rev. James Barr denied the request. Other setbacks followed, and the group disbanded shortly afterwards.

Nothing more was heard about local gay liberation activities until July, 1973. At that time, the "Action Please" columnist of the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* answered a reader's request for information on local gay groups by stating that Jack Johnson, 121 E. Trigg, was attempting to form a Gay Liberation Front chapter in Memphis.

Johnson, who still lives in Memphis, says that he got the idea for starting a Memphis GLF chapter after participating in a similar group in New York City. Following the notice in the newspaper, he said, more than 100 persons called him. Some were from cranks, but others were from homosexuals interested in the proposed group.

Despite this widespread interest, a meeting was never held, Johnson said. People wanted to participate, but told him that they were afraid. Ultimately, plans for the group were dropped.

Roughly a year later, in the fall of 1974, notices were posted in Memphis gay bars asking persons interested in forming a local Gay Activists Alliance chapter to call a certain number. These notices disappeared after a couple of weeks, however, and nothing more was heard about the would-be GAA chapter.

First Successful Group

The first successful attempt to form a non-social gay group came in Oct., 1974, when two gay members of the local National Organization for Women chapter established a Mem-

phis Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism. The task force attracted a number of socially aware Memphis lesbians, and within a year, it was involved in several projects. These included panel discussions before straight organizations and a sexual attitudes survey.

One offshoot of the task force was a women's consciousness-raising discussion group on sexuality and lesbianism. Started in Dec., 1974, the women's C-R group met regularly at Memphis' First Presbyterian Church and ever since. It attracts from 30 to 60 women each month.

Two significant "movement" developments within the Memphis gay community were seen in 1975. The first occurred in July, when the first issue of *GAIETY*, a local gay newspaper was published. Owned and edited by Gary Poe, the monthly newspaper quickly became a prime source of information for gay Memphians.

The second advance occurred in mid-December, when a local study group of the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Church was formed. Shepherded by ex-New Yorker Charlene Taylor, the group grew from a dozen persons at the first meeting to some 30 members and friends two months later. In addition to holding Sunday afternoon worship services in a private home each week, the MCC study group sponsored spaghetti suppers and other social events.

The year 1975 also saw a previously all-social organization, the Queen's Men, become involved in political activities when it sponsored a voter registration drive in six Memphis gay bars. More than 175 persons of all ages were



signed up during the week-long project. While neither the Queen's Men nor any other group officially recommended candidates in the November municipal elections, the drive created a new awareness of the potential political power of a united gay voting bloc.

If the mid-70s saw participation by some Memphis gays in mildly activist group activities, it was also marked by an increasing willingness of a few individuals to openly demand equal justice under the law. One such case occurred in June, 1975, when several gay men were attacked by straight thugs at Engineer's Beach in Arkansas. Instead of suffering silently, the victims risked additional harassment and ridicule and pressed charges against the one apprehended attacker. Ultimately, a West Memphis judge found their assailant guilty and sentenced him to six months in jail.

Six months later, five men entrapped by Memphis vice cops for alleged "male soliciting" refused to plea bargain with city officials and fought their case to the end, having all charges dismissed.

While a few gay Memphians showed an interest in asserting their human dignity and legal rights during the 1970s, most local homosexuals seemed to accept things as they were. Out of an estimated active gay population of several thousand, only a couple of hundred participated in non-social gay activities. Those actively working with any "movement" group or project were much fewer, numbering less than a couple of dozen. (Continued on page 20)

GAITY

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Gay Business

In a recent issue of HUMAN BEHAVIOR, Bob Dameron, publisher of the well-known bar guide, offered his opinion of one new direction in gay liberation. "There is a big desire for gay people to support gay business." Bars are, of course, the biggest business in the gay world. "Ten years ago, maybe 25 to 30 per cent of the (gay) bars in San Francisco were gay owned. Today, they're probably 75 to 80 per cent gay owned."

Recently, even in Memphis, we have begun seeing other gays in business offering their service to the gay community. You can shop for pornography or photography...select a beautician or a florist...a lawyer or a doctor...and still support gay business men and women.

Several of these people have advertised in GAITY, showing that they care about us. You see, by advertising in GAITY, these businesses say two things: 1) they consider the people who read GAITY to be important customers. 2) they support our newspaper in a tangible way...with money!

The problem in the past has been that these ads have gone largely unnoticed. None of our readers have indicated that they saw the ads, they they tried a certain soup, that they visited a certain beauty shop, or that they had their chart done by a certain astrologer. In fact, I doubt that anyone has mentioned to a bar owner that they noticed their ad.

I'm sure this sounds like a lecture, but a business person who receives no comment or results from an advertisement does not continue to advertise. Then who loses? First, GAITY does. Then you do. Advertising is the only way this paper can continue. Individual sales do not even pay for the printing.

But in a larger sense, it all goes back to Bob Dameron's statement. Gay people must support gay business. If we don't support them, who will? Do you expect the straight world to patronize a store run by a person who is openly gay? If coming out prevents one from being in business, then what has happened to liberation?

- GP

Sex and the Vatican

The Vatican's recent statement that all extra-marital sex is sinful and that masturbation and homosexual relations are "disordered" reveals a pathetic blindness to the findings of modern science, medicine, and psychology. It is a major disappointment to Catholics who have hoped their Church would become more relevant to the modern world.

A few optimists claim to detect in the new statement a slight softening of the Church's previous total condemnation of homosexuality. To support this, they cite the remark that when "incurable" homosexuals are involved, the Church "should judge culpability with prudence." They also point out that homosexual acts are not singled out as especially heinous sins as before, and are instead criticized in much the same language as masturbation, a universally practiced and generally tolerated form of sexual behavior.

Whatever merit this optimistic interpretation has, the Vatican's basic message is painfully clear. All gay sexual relations, even with a single, loving mate, are sinful. The only way a homosexual can be a Catholic in good standing is to suppress his sexual urges completely.

This harsh viewpoint, it should be noted, is basically the opinion of the elderly, Italian Cardinals in the Vatican's Sacred Curia. It does not represent the views of all Catholic clergymen or theologians. Quite to the contrary, several of the Church's most respected theologians have concluded that homosexual relationships should be judged by the same criteria which heterosexual ones are--whether the persons involved have a loving, selfless attitude towards each other. This attitude is shared by numerous lay people, including the many American Catholic politicians who support gay civil rights.

The entire Church should not be judged because of the myopia of a few aging cardinals.

If the Vatican's sex statement wrongs gays and other single people, it also does a major disservice to the Church itself. In 1968, the Vatican alienated millions of married couples with its prohibition of effective birth control. This year's condemnation of all extra-marital sex will antagonize additional millions of gay and straight single Catholics. If the Church persists in upholding such medieval foolishness, it will lose the allegiance of the few educated persons it still attracts and will end up reigning over an empire of peasants and peons.

It is sad to see an institution which could do so much good in our modern society destroying its credibility over primitive sexual hangups.

- FH

Letters to Editor

We're Women - Not Girls

GAITY:

It was pleasing to read last month that the Queen's Men Association was to open its ranks to those of "female gender--girls" and will be equally pleased when they admit women as well. (Many of us are proud of our womanhood, and while we no longer resemble the All-American-All Girl-Sweet Seventeen crowd, we don't behave like that either--happily.)

M. J. Cowart

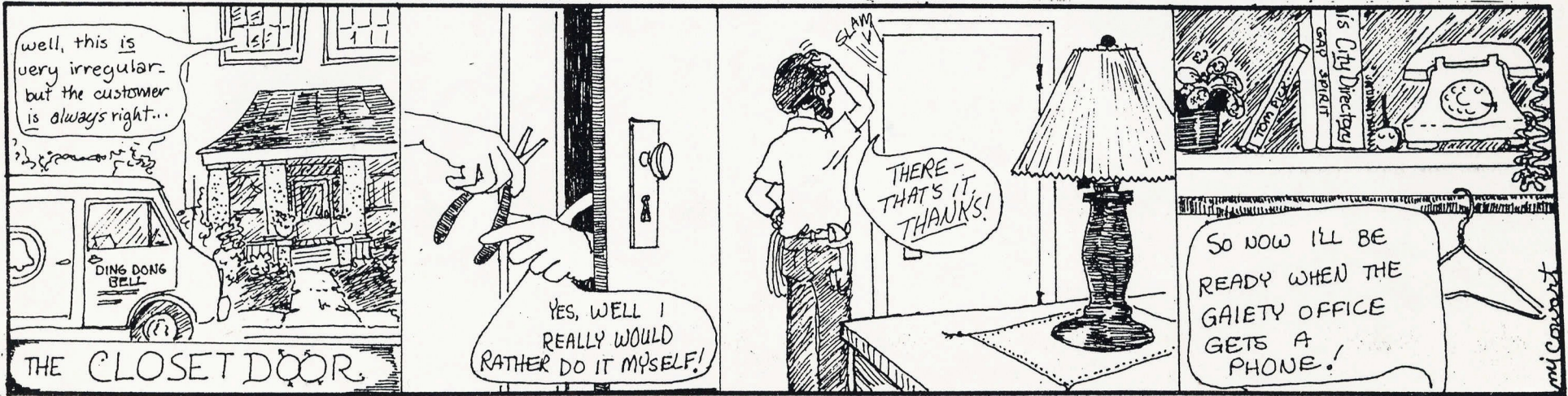
Dear Editor

I understand that you are a commercial enterprise, and as such you take your chances. However, your particular endeavor (at this time) is of such import to the gay community that your continuity must prevail.

You can prevail only if you receive adequate advertising. Of course bars catering to gays don't need to advertise. Everyone in Memphis knows where they are located.

However, this is a vehicle for gays, and advertisements are needed. Your business is gay business. This community needs this paper; one may say what the city fathers do, in this instance, you mothers--what can you do? Support. Readership has never supported any newspaper.

Memphis is fortunate in having a paper not dedicated to any faction (yet, let's hope, never). This may be our only chance to give Memphis an open forum. -Phyllis



Tips Offered On Coming Out

After You're Out, Karla Jay and Allen Young, Links Books, \$4.95.

by Martha Brummett

Only Karla Jay and Allen Young could compile a book to follow Out of the Closets, and they have. It's another anthology, entitled After You're Out. The Links paperback edition (\$4.95) boasts accolades by Elaine Noble and Merle Miller, and, as with the first book, these are not over-states.

The book is divided into three parts: Identity and Lifestyles, Survival in a Hostile World, and Creating Community and Helping Ourselves. The editors have meted out the four introductory chapters equally, and there are individual essays by Jane Rule, Rita Mae Brown, and others.

A few of the more notable and informative articles are "How to Come Out Without Being Thrown Out" by Jeanne Cordova, "Surviving Gay Coupledness" by Karla Jay, "Lesbian Mother" by Jeanne Perreault, "Faggot Father" by Don Mager, and "Aging" by Riki. Two chapters were originally leaflets: "Pocket Legal Guide for Gay People" by the Chicago Gay People's Legal Committee, and "Information on VD for Gay Women and Men" by Julian Bamford. Both these, I feel, should be reprinted in leaflet form to distribute in our community. I only wish I had space to go into them more deeply.

The most interesting chapter, to my mind, is "Can Gay Men and Women Work Together?" It is a transcription of a round-table discussion between the editors and Rose Jordan and Morty Manford, two gay liberation activists. I found the interplay between the participants intriguing, and the discussion format presented a more balanced viewpoint than any single essay could.

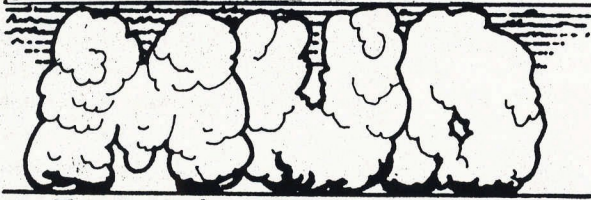
Jay and Young accept their limitations of time, space, and outlook, and this quality makes them an effective editing team. Their books bring articles from many varied publications to the attention of the masses, thus insuring that those of us who are isolated from the mainstream of the gay liberation movement can be almost as well-informed as our sisters and brothers in New York and San Francisco. Out of the Closets, in a lower-priced edition, was distributed by Bluff City News and sold in 7/11 and Stop & Go stores here in Memphis. After You're Out will be too. Go in and buy it. And smile at the clerk.

Gays Must Reject Straight Definitions

Homosexual Oppression and Liberation, Dennis Altman. Avon, 1973. \$1.65.

by Bob Brown

Dennis Altman's book lifts the traditional vanguards of homosexual repres-



by *Lady Jane Grey*

The Queen's Men seem to be in the driver's seat when it comes to sociability. The climax of the Christmas whirl (winter's last gasp) occurred in Night Court with Judge Getz at the head, sitting for Judge Wilburn.

Phyllis, perennial favorite, was once again "Queen for the Day." Looking radiant in black leather, she whipped the anteroom into a frenzy soon after breezing from the elevator and spotting an old "friend." Suffering with all the dignity of Anna Magnani, Southern fried in deep fat, she held half the police force at bay... (window, which most of them had.)

That old snake charmer, Bill, looked modest and retiring in Banlon... or some stretch material. Also in the entourage was Eddie Balboa, proving once again that it's not what kind of make-up you use, but how it is applied that really counts.

And the lawyer for the defense was just precious. I didn't know gray hair would frizz.

Officers "what's her name"

sion by presenting a thorough and authoritative look at the gay world. "One of the concerns of this book is to show the varied and deep-seated ways in which homosexuals are oppressed."

and Culp(able) didn't deem it necessary to show up. Memphis finest still can't come. The charges were dismissed and records were wiped clean... no one paid a price for anything... unless you consider legal fees, parking and time spent in jail.

The queer thing is that I always thought an arrest assured the commission of a crime. If those people arrested were not guilty, then their rights were most assuredly interfered with.

Are officers Beale and Culp going to be permitted to roam the bars of Memphis at will, attempting the same perverted behavior? Does dear Mr. Getz know that he allowed gross negligence by regarding this as a specific case and refusing to decide on any specific rules of conduct for policemen or gays?

Supposed moral turpitude degenerates into chronic legal turpitude.

We may have won a victory by default as queers, but we sure as hell lost out as Americans.

A Fulbright scholar, Altman sharply criticizes the so-called "experts" from the straight community who profess to know the cause and treatment. "Often unconsciously, homosexuals will internalize the expectations that popular psychology and psychiatry have of us--homosexuals are by and large, vociferous readers of books that purport to explain them." Yet, how many of these books are written by homosexuals? When homosexuals are surveyed, they tend to echo the beliefs of the "authorities," thus the label or stereotype becomes self-reinforcing.

"For too long, homosexuals have allowed themselves to be defined by a heterosexual world which at worst persecuted and at best tolerates them." Altman compares the establishment and growth of the black, the women's, and the gay liberation movements. He shows how the groups, while fighting for different reasons, are actually working towards a common goal of ceasing oppression, while attempting to gain a more useful and accepting part in today's society.

Called a "penetrating analysis of the political premises and goals of the movement," Altman has succeeded in combining academics and story telling into a smooth flowing manuscript. A sort of Everything You've Always Wanted To Know About The Homosexual, But Couldn't Find Published Anywhere.

'She Dared To Tell The Truth'

by Louie Crew

Fort Valley State College, Georgia

AMARILLO, TX--Prof. Rebecca Patterson died here on Christmas Eve, 1975, after many months of courageously battling against a painful heart condition.

She had been a professor of English at Kansas State University in Pittsburgh and was editor-in-chief of The Midwest Quarterly: A Journal of Contemporary Thought.

The gay community is deeply indebted to Ms. Patterson for her pioneering efforts to tell the truth about American poet Emily Dickinson, whose life she perceived as a "tragedy" because Ms. Dickinson was never able to fulfill her gay desires.

Not gay herself, Professor Patterson shared the following account of this scholarly effort with (me) less than a month before her death.

"The most unconventional thing I have done is to blunder onto the tragedy of Dickinson's life and to insist hard-headedly over the years that that is the explanation and the only basis on which her poetry makes sense....

"Of course I discovered that I wasn't the only one who had arrived at that explanation. On my first meeting with Katherine Ann Porter, the conversation turned to Dickinson, and I asked idly, 'What is your explanation, Miss Porter?'

"'Homosexual, of course!' she fairly snapped at me....

"But would Miss Porter come to my rescue and lend the prestige of her name when my book was being torn apart and stamped on by all the Dickinson crew of scholars? She would not! And that continued to be my luck."

Even now Professor Patterson's book manuscript about Emily Dickinson's use of images, metaphors, and symbols is being rebuffed by publishers, who have complained that it is merely, in the words of one's critique, "a hunting down of phrases, all of which ends up proving the same old idea (of Dickinson's Lesbianism)."

Unaware of Professor Patterson's death at the time, the Gay Caucus for Modern Languages meeting in San Francisco at the Modern Language Association unanimously passed the following resolution on Dec. 29:

"The Gay Caucus for Modern Languages expresses gratitude to scholar Rebecca Patterson for her continuing important research of Emily Dickinson. We applaud her for her honesty in discussing sexuality, and we urge publishers to make these materials available to the scholarly community."

The Gay Caucus is co-chaired by Prof. Richard Gustafson of Bernard College and Prof. Dolores Noll of Kent State University.

Professor Patterson's manuscripts are being handled by her daughter, Ms. Ann Patterson, 2019 Milam, Amarillo, TX 79109.

Worthy of Death': Religion and Gay Oppression

by Barbara Cigainero
and Linda Lovell

There are basically two viewpoints concerning the origins of homosexual oppression and censure: (1) homosexuality has always been found to be abhorrent to humankind, or (2) homosexual oppression has been limited in space and time, and is a product of tangible events in human history.

History can only bear out the second viewpoint. The oppression of homosexuals is a learned behavior. The question which occurs, then, is "What historical events have influenced people to condemn and punish homosexuals?"

The Hebrew people, whose history is sketched in the Old Testament, had at one time allowed homosexuality as a part of temple worship. According to some authorities, it was not until after the Babylonian Exile that the Hebrews developed negative attitudes toward this previously acceptable behavior. It would seem reasonable to suggest that as slaves and as a people who were continuously captive, the Hebrews would be discouraged by their captors from engaging in homosexuality because this sexual act would not lead to procreation (i.e. to more slaves).

Another variation of this theory would seem to hold true at other times in Hebrew history. Self-defined as "God's Chosen People" the Hebrews were a very nationalistic people. Homosexuality was written of as an alien practice unworthy of the chosen ones.

The Bible prohibits every form of sexual activity other than heterosexual genital intercourse. The first prohibition of homosexuality is found in the Old Testament in Genesis 19. (The story of Sodom and Gomorrah.) The practice is again prohibited in Leviticus 18:22. The punishment for transgression was death. Indeed, the whole history of the Hebrews repeats the scene of the number of the chosen people being drastically dwindled because of unfaithfulness to God (e.g. Noah and the Flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, countless plagues). Always a small remnant remains. Because of wars and unnatural disasters, the Hebrews had an "underpopulation" problem. Power for God's chosen ones would depend upon procreation. Homosexuality would seem to subvert this purpose. It would have to be condemned. Throughout the Old Testament, there are various references to "the abomination" or to "Sodomites." (See Judges 1:22-30; I Kings 22-46; and II Kings 23:7).

Jewish sex codes were brought over into Christian codes by the early adherents of the Church, most notably St. Paul, who had been raised in the Jewish tradition on matters of sex. As a new and persecuted religion, Christianity could not entirely rely upon the conversion of "heathens" for the attainment of numbers. Procreation would play a powerful role in the growth of the Christian Church. Homosexuality would, once again, have to be condemned as an unnatural act. St. Paul brings condemnation of homosexuality into the New Testament in Romans 1; I Corinthians 6:9; and I Timothy 1:10. The most damning condemnation is in Romans 1, and includes, for the first time, a condemnation of lesbianism.

It is important to note that, although homosexuality is considered to be absolutely the worst sin by Church fathers, Jesus himself apparently did not consider it worthy of mention. There is also strong evidence in the story of David and Jonathan (I Samuel 20) that a homosexual relationship existed between the two, which was part of the reason for Saul's attempt upon David's life.

In Rome, when the Christian revolution was taking place, the Romans openly practiced homosexuality. But when Christianity became the religion of the Empire, a crusade was opened against the practice. In 342 A.D. Emperor Constantius imposed the death penalty for sodomy. Valentinian declared that homosexuals should be burned at the stake and Justinian, hero of law, imposed death by sword. Justinian was terrified by natural calamities which wiped out whole cities. This fear with the argument that "the sexual act is for procreation" was prompted by Justinian and he used these arguments as a justification for homosexual oppression/death.

In the Middle Ages, there was very little distinction

between Church and State. The two were so closely aligned that a person who violated the precepts of the Church was considered guilty, not only of heresy, but also of treason. St. Thomas Aquinas justified the persecution of homosexuals with the logic that "right reason declares that the appointed end of sexual acts is procreation." (For this reason, Aquinas considered rape to be a lesser sin than masturbation or homosexuality, since rape at least led to procreation.)

The words "heretic," "sorcerer," "sodomist," and "witch" were often subsumed under the same category in the Middle Ages. During the Spanish Inquisition, those who were accused of heresy were assumed to be homosexual as a matter of course. These people were burned at the stake, drowned, or buried alive. Throughout history homosexuality and heresy have been equated. In English speaking countries, the connection between the two is expressed through the use of a single word to denote both concepts, "buggery." Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines "buggery" as "heresy, sodomy" and "bugger" as "heretic, sodomite." Also of interest is the origin of the word "faggot":

- fagot or faggot
1. A bundle of sticks or twigs, esp. as used for fuel, a fascine, or as a means of burning heretics alive. (Webster's 3rd Int.)
 2. The embroidered figure of a faggot, which heretics who had recanted were obliged to wear on their sleeves. (Oxford English Dictionary)
 3. A term of abuse or contempt applied to a homosexual male.

Today, in our overpopulated world, the concept that the sex act is for procreation only is still promulgated by such influential groups as the Roman Catholic Church and fundamentalist religions.

And so women and men of these religions are denied the right to birth control, abortion and the practice of homosexuality. These churches, while not able to burn offenders at the stake as in the days of the Inquisition, today promise transgressors the fire of everlasting Hell after death, and impose whatever hell on earth they can manufacture for the living.

SOURCES:

- Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation, Dennis Altman. 1971.
Religious Roots of the Taboo on Homosexuality, John Lauritsen. 1974.
The Manufacture of Madness, Thomas Szasz. 1970.
"Homosexual Love", The Origins and Development of the Moral Ideas, Edward Westermarck. 1908.
The Holy Bible, King James version. 1611.
Sexual Behavior in the Human Female, Alfred Kinsey, et al. 1953.

(Reprinted from Pointblank Times, Vol. I No. 3, May, 1975.)

On Iconoclasm

by Lady Jane Grey

Shadowlike Green Lantern
crept in time.
Zapping those who wallowed in
crime.
Sickeningly, sloppily, slithered
in slime.
(Epicureans)

His lantern sparks embers
faithful and bright.
Frustrating phantoms too
fearful to fight.
Damnably demons descent from
de light.
(He's got religion)

Golden curls that never will
tarnish.
Bonhomie that doesn't need
varnish
Frightful frankness freaks
fruitful carnage.
(And what does love mean)

...I knew the first time I
saw him. And the last. And
every day since. I glimpse
him in other men, but these
furious fancies dissipate as
they decimate leaving only a
curious brand of unforgiveness.
So here I sit as cigarettes
smoke question marks in the
air, with the hauteur of one
who has seen too much and
felt it all to the hilt...

Mirrors in minds: Reflections
in faces.
Treadmills in time: Impossible
races.
Queer colored costumes are
not current crazes.
You might break the man.

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Williams Bares All

In His 'Memoirs'

Memoirs, Tennessee Williams. New York, Doubleday, 1975.

by Anne Stevens

Tennessee Williams' *Memoirs*, recently published and now climbing high on the best seller list, is a book not quickly or easily read, but one which will be greatly appreciated and long remembered by its readers.

It is the candidly written and extremely revealing autobiography of one of the most talented and highly regarded playwrights of our time, the creator of "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," "The Glass Menagerie," and "A Streetcar Named Desire."

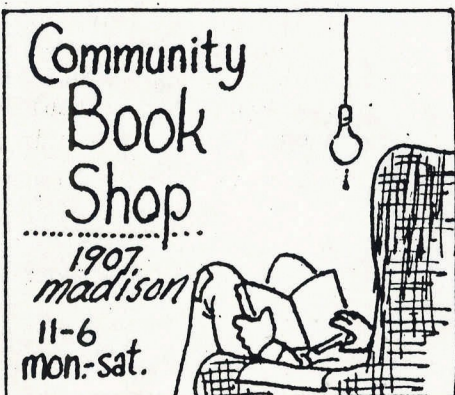
Williams' memoirs tell us of his self-confessed failures and despair, as well as of his many, many triumphs and successes. He writes very frankly about his own homosexuality and that of many of today's noted writers and celebrities.

It was here in Memphis in the summer of 1934 that he read in the Southwestern library, dined with a "crush" at the Peabody Hotel, and produced his first play. And it was this same period that Williams "began to realize more fully an attraction suspected for some time to other young men." Since that summer, he has had numerous affairs, short and long-term, and he shares many of these with the reader.

The most touching section of the book is that in which he writes of his 14-year relationship with Frank Merlo and the deep depression he sank into after Merlo's death. Regarding gay people in general, he says, "There is no doubt in my mind that there is more sensibility--which is equivalent to more talent--among the 'gays' of both sexes than among the 'norms'."

Williams also writes frankly about his struggles with depression, alcohol, and pills, and about his recent confinement in a mental hospital.

This autobiography, sometimes campy and funny, but more often sad and very, very touching, is an honest and personal view of a very talented and very honest man.



'Cuckoo's Nest'—Superb but Shocking

by Buddy Haynes

It has been called a triumph, a dismal flop, brilliant, and a gross mistreatment of mental illness.

It won six Golden Globe Awards, including Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Picture. Surely, it will not be overlooked by the Academy Awards.

But the question is not whether it is good or bad, because as always, one person's treasure is another's trash.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is the story of a free spirit versus the establishment and of who will win in the end. It is taken from the novel by Ken Kesey (author of "The Electric Kool-Aid

Acid Test") and partially from the play of the same name by Dale Wasserman ("The Man of La Mancha").

The film opened here amid a flurry of excitement and doubt. Lines formed at the box office four hours before show time, and a couple of people were seen "hawking" tickets at "slightly higher" prices. Even if this film does not capture a single Academy, it will surely make much money.

In this reviewer's eyes, the film is excellent, though not without flaws. Filming took place in the Oregon State Hospital in Salem, and actually used some real-life patients. Before the actual shooting started, some of the

actors spent two months on the ward observing behavior of both patients and aides. This was no doubt beneficial because, during the course of the two-and-a-half hour film, one tends to forget that he or she is watching a movie and not a documentary on mental health in the early 1960s.

"Cuckoo's Nest" tells the story of R. P. McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) who is trying to avoid a work detail in the state prison by pretending to be mentally ill. He is taken to the hospital for tests and observation. He soon learns that most of the patients are saner than those in charge, but even though that may be, Nurse Ratched is the key pawn in the game.

The role of Ratched is portrayed by Louise Fletcher, and her performance is probably the best in the film. Instead of the outright brutality shown in the novel and in the San Francisco production of the play, Ms. Fletcher is cool, cunning, and underhandedly cruel. Her performance put her up for an Academy Award. The coolness of her cruelty is much more effective in that she makes the viewer believe that she is doing what she actually thinks is right for her charges. She is superb. Her coolness and apparent affection for her patients make the ending of the film all the more malicious and terrifying.

(Continued on page 13)

Drag Role Liberates Actor

Actor Kris Serendin, mentioned for an Academy Award for his role in "Dog Day Afternoon," says he is "hopelessly heterosexual," but when he read the script for his role as a drag queen, "I flipped over it."

"Dog Day Afternoon," which recently finished a run in Memphis, told the story based on a real-life incident of a homosexual who robbed a bank so that his lover could have a sex-change operation.

Serendin said he experienced a big change from doing the part. "I found myself, all through my life, constantly editorializing about

the way I moved, about the way I reacted to men friends, and it has liberated me, doing this part, because I had to express myself physically in a totally different way. And, I found...a much more at home way of dealing with myself so that now I just don't worry about how I look physically when I'm talking or relating to people."

"Dog Day Afternoon" was Serendin's acting debut, but he doesn't think his portrayal as a "zonked-out" drag queen will result in his being type-cast...he just finished his second film; this time he played a rapist.

'If You're Gay, Stay Away,' Students Say

Three psychologists from California State College of San Bernardino have concluded that "gay is beautiful--at a distance," at least according to scientifically observed behavior of heterosexual students.

Research was initiated by psychologist Stephen F. Morin after he noticed a colleague moving farther away from him at a urinal following Morin's decloseting.

The study was conducted using 80 college students, half male and half female, presumed to be straight. Each student was interviewed by a person of either the same or opposite sex.

Students were asked about their attitudes concerning homosexuality.

At times the interviewer identified him/herself as gay; with other students, the same interviewer appeared as simply a graduate student doing research, with no mention being made of sexual preferences.

When they were being interviewed by a person of the same sex whom they thought to

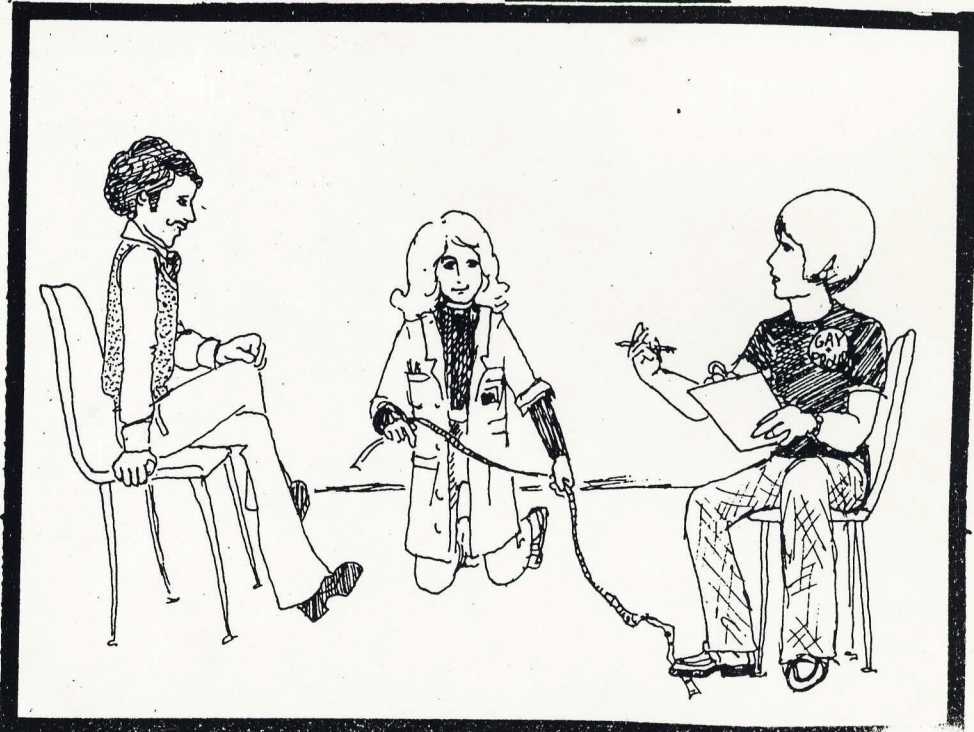
be gay, however, the distance markedly increased, especially among the male students--from 22 inches to 32 inches.

The distance between the interviewer and the student stayed about the same (28 inches from the identified gays, and 25 inches from the non-identified researcher) when the students and researchers were of the oppo-

site sex.

Morin, aided by Kathleen E. Taylor and Stanley J. Kielman, designed the test and presented the results at this year's Chicago convention of the American Psychological Association.

The study was reported in the January issue of *Psychology Today* and the February *Human Behavior*.



'Playgirl' Often Experiences Prejudices

"It Ain't Easy Being Green. Those are the words of a song being performed by Jo Ann, a regular "playgirl" at George's Theatre Lounge. The words seem to be very appropriate for the entertainer because, even though Jo Ann is not green, things have certainly not been

easy. In seven years of performing female impersonation, Jo Ann has often experienced prejudice because of sexual orientation as well as race. It all started, she says, as a lark. J.C.'s Fiesta was a basically straight lounge

which featured regular impersonation shows. One night, when only sixteen, Jo Ann decided to give it a try. Since then, the hobby has become a source of employment and many agree that it is a fine art.

For some time, Jo Ann performed at small clubs and parties. Soon she began working with Peaches and performed in the Peaches Revue. In 1972, Jo Ann got a chance to perform at George's and a year later was tapped as a regular.

Jo Ann was chosen to fill the place of Diana, a well known and universally liked black impersonator who moved on to larger cities. Jo Ann looked a lot like Diana, both in physical features and in performance technique. Because of this, some people resented Jo Ann at first and thought she was trying to "replace" Diana. This resentment only caused Jo Ann to work harder to present herself as an individual with many special talents and abilities.

Now Jo Ann is one of the real favorites at George's. A Gemini, Jo Ann hopes someday to become a professional model. Transsexual surgery is something that Jo Ann has given a lot of thought to, but she feels that a move like that will not happen soon, if at all.

"It Ain't Easy Being Green," but if you're green, Jo Ann thinks you ought to be the best green around.



Whitman 'Decloseted' In Television Special

"Song of Myself," a CBS-TV presentation based on the life of Walt Whitman and scheduled to be broadcast Tuesday, Mar. 9, is recommended viewing, according to the National Gay Task Force.

NGTF board member Martin Duberman reviewed the program in a recent New York TIMES article:

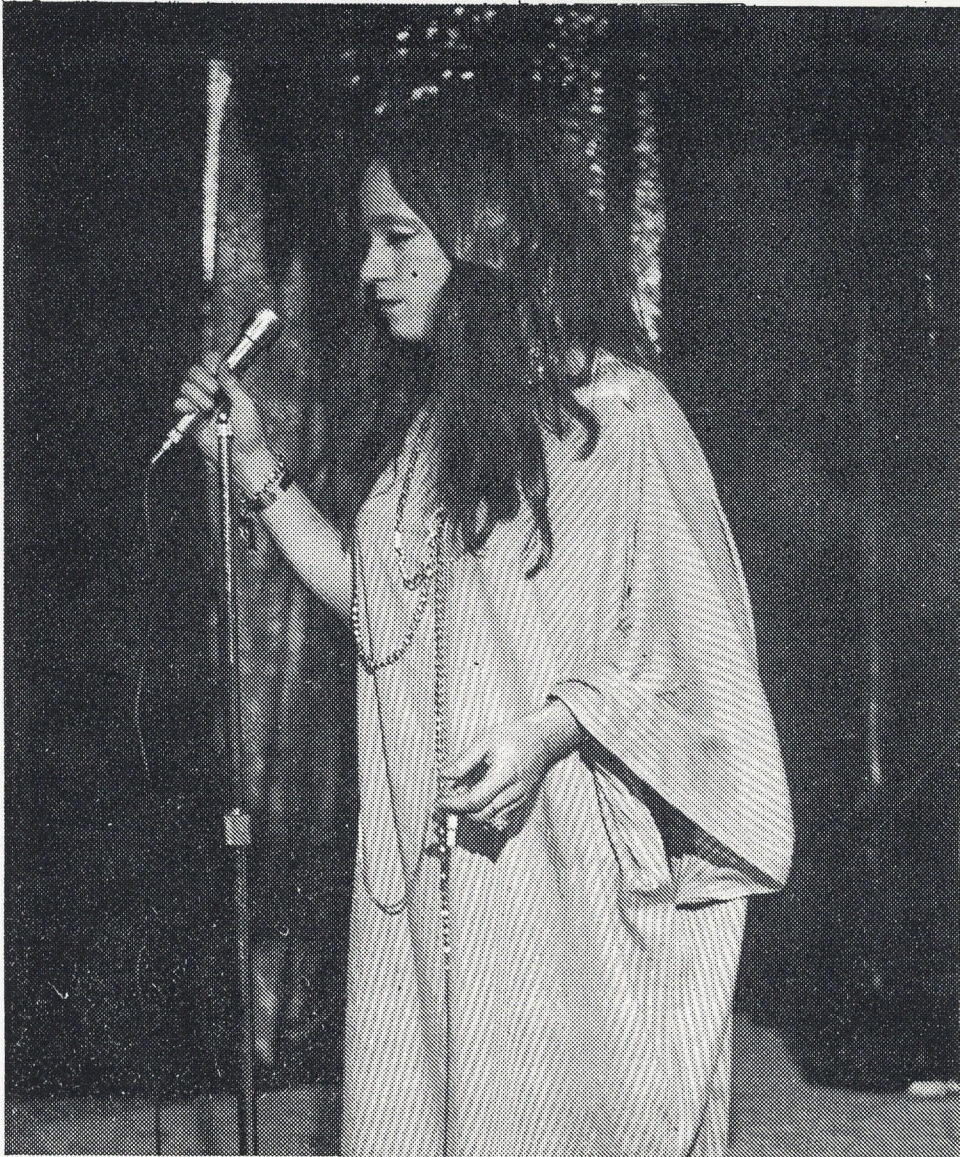
"'Song of Myself' marks out a path angels have not been allowed to see and Whitman scholars have refused to tread. That's right: the script deals with Whitman's homosexuality. Indeed, centers on it.

"Apparently, the more the creators of this dramatization researched Whitman's life, the more convinced they became that homoeroticism was at its core."

NGTF suggests that comments about the show be sent to: American Parade, c/o CBS-TV, 51 W. 52nd Street, New York, NY 10010, with copies to Tom Swafford, vice-president, Broadcast Standards, at the same address.

It is also suggested that a copy be sent to the local station:

REMEMBER?



Contributed by Nern-Boy.

POETRY

SUMMATION

Four loves had I,
All diversified men,
Yet each wrote something valid
On me with his pen.

To walk gaily proud
Was too much for one's stride,
So he starred in an act
Which he wrote: Suicide.

Another and I
Were a mutual feast,
But he wanted a "Father"
And ditched me for a priest.

One was unbridled
But couldn't decide
Was it stallions or fillies
He wanted to ride?

My true love has wavered
Yet something still stands
Uniting our grace
And divergent demands.

The actor has rotted,
And what did they say,
The maggots who shucked him,
"This fellow was Gay"?

"Daddy's boy" carresses
An interesting view,
A holier - than - thou Roman priest
Who enjoys a good screw.

My faltering gelding
Will never disclose
The hard way he loved me
To his soft female rose.

Sometimes, late at night,
My tears are a sea
On my fourth love's true chest,
As I weep for my three.

- Don Bramkamp

(Reprinted from INTEGRITY,
Gay Episcopal Forum.)

QUATRAINE
by Buddy Haynes

I. Feelings just don't go away---
If we could turn off our feelings
There would be a lot less pain in the world.

II. Love is love---
It can happen between a man and a woman
two men,
or two women.
But it's still love.

III. Sex is a normal human drive---
It doesn't matter who it involves.
A man and a woman.
Two men.
Or two women.
It becomes sick only when society sticks labels on it.

IV. I once said I'd never love again---
Both guys I loved
can't or won't return the love.
Pain.

New Bars Open in Memphis--Hitchin' Post, Front Page

In February, two new lounges opened for the gay community. The Hitchin' Post is located at 1208 Lamar, site of the Score, and earlier, the In-Crowd. The Front Page is located at 267 S. Cleveland, formerly the home of the Tango Palace.

The Hitchin' Post is managed by Gary Qualls, who is also a part owner. It is open every day from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m.

Relaxed Atmosphere

Qualls has a lot of plans for the bar, and he hopes that it will be an enjoyable place to meet new people in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The Hitchin' Post also features a game room with pinball, bumper pool, and shuffleboard. There are plans to sponsor a shuffleboard tournament soon and ultimately to challenge other bars to form their own teams for competition.

Patio Area Planned

Qualls indicated that he will be trying some innovative ideas in the future, including a patio area in the summer. He said that he was not looking to become THE bar in Memphis, but would like to have a nice "cruisy" place.

The Front Page is the joint property of James (Juicie) Shankle and Charles (Chuck) Self. Juicie says that despite what some people think, the bar is completely owned by the two of them, with no hidden partners.

Friendly Bar

Both want the Front Page to become known as a friendly bar. "I didn't have any enemies when I opened the bar, and I hope I don't now."

Afternoon Parties

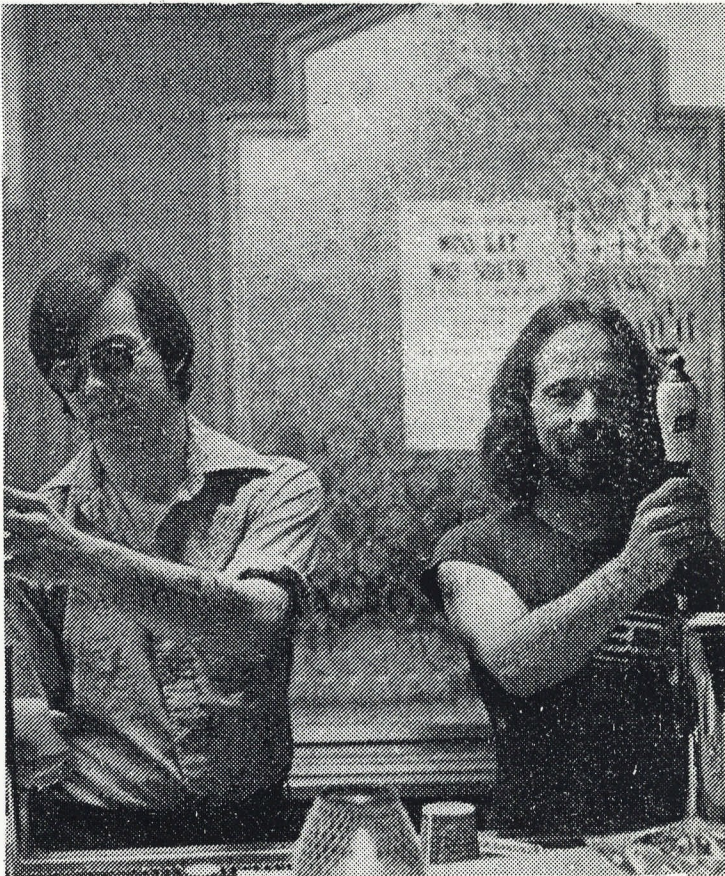
Plans for the lounge include a Tuesday night beer bust and a series of special Sunday afternoon parties. The parties are to be more relaxed than the disco scene and will offer an alternative to people who aren't ready to boogie again so soon after Saturday night.

The Front Page will open every day at 4 p.m. except Sundays when Juicie says he'll be open by 1 p.m. "if it kills me."

"Let's not talk about fags. Let's talk about me. I don't have a homosexual following. I wouldn't know a homosexual if I saw one."
- Bette Midler



Dennis Belskii and Gary Qualls



Charles Self and James (Juicie) Shankle

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Established Church Drives Gays Away

(Editor's Note: Archbishop Hyde is the head of the department of missions of the Eucharistic-Catholic Church, a church founded by him for gay Christians in 1946 in Atlanta, GA, and received into the full communion with the Orthodox-Catholic Church of America in 1957. The following is a transcription of an informal address given at the January meeting of the Spartanburg, Anderson, Greenville Alliance of Gay Christians, SAGA.)

GAY CHRISTIAN ETHIC

Many of our contemporaries ignore the church or battle against it. And one meets those who know and love Christ, but do not recognize any church organization. But it is no wonder. It so happens that the established church, far from bringing gays closer to Christ, drives them away.

Contrary to the theology and doctrine of the established church, there is no contradiction between Christ's Mystical Body and the homosexual. It has not been Christ speaking against homosexuality, but churchmen who stand on the old Jewish law and the morality of Puritans who dare read into His words that which is not there.

In actual fact, the several Bible passages put forth as "clear proof" that God condemns the homosexual are not so very clear. They are full of contradictions, misunderstandings, and misinterpretations. Any unbiased theologian will admit that such passages alleged to be connected with the condemnation of homosexuality have been taken out of context by translators, and have nothing whatsoever to do with homosexuality per se.

2nd NGTF Forum To Put Emphasis On Religious Life

"Gays and the Religious Community: What's Ahead For Us?", the second in a series sponsored by the National Gay Task Force, will be the topic of a forum scheduled for Mar. 6 at the N.Y.U. School of Medicine in New York City.

Topics will include the growth of denominational caucuses and all-gay congregations, roles of gay men and women in the religious community, re-examination of sexuality by religious institutions, and gay ordinations.

Speakers will be: the Rev. Carter Heyward, the Rev. John McNeil, Arlie Scott, the Rev. Howard Wells, Carl Bennett, Ken Briggs, and the Rev. Robert Herrick, who will also act as moderator.

Children Of God

As children of God, gays along with non-gays are charged by Christ to become 'other Christs' wherever we are, and whatever we are... whatever may be our affectional preferences. But the established church does not want this. And they force gays to attempt this difficult task alone, without any guidance. There are, within the established church all sorts of task forces and special ministries allegedly working from within to change things. But it seems a little sanguine to think that the established church will do now what it has refused to do for 2,000 years. (But the church has never been challenged like this before, and never before in such manner has it been told that its old answers are not the real answers, in the sense that they have no validity for gays.)

Present Task

Our present task as gay Christians -- independent of the heterosexual majority -- is to express the permanent truth as we know and understand it, so that the Christian Faith will not appear as a stranger to our gay brothers and sisters. The established church has the same Christ, the same Sacraments, the same Faith...but not the same truths. It has a faulty concept of Christian Truth. And because of its theological mood, the established church is in sin--the sin of jealously hiding its riches which it ought to dispense generously. It has failed, and thus indirectly brought into being an independent expression of Christianity to which gays can fully and completely relate.

Sheltered Seminaries

Many of the old, half-formed ideas of the established church have been hatched in the incubus of sheltered seminaries and seige mentalities, and require revision. Amazingly, established Christianity--with some very capable persons--has managed to come to grips with the world in almost every respect but one... the phenomenon of devout gay Christians.

In speaking of an independent gay Christian movement, we are not merely bandying words. We are attempting to make intelligent witness within the gay society to a common Faith. We are attempting--as gay ministers--to be relevant to our own, and to perform a mission that activates love in the world--a part of the same love that led God to the act of creation.

Mission Of Church

The mission of our Church is to save...and this means man in the complexity of his spiritual and temporal, individual and social nature. We gay Christians have an obligation to be a sign to our generation as our Lord was a sign to His.

Gay Christians are not that different! Just like our heterosexual brothers and sisters, we are today seeking an equilibrium in a world of change. Ethics are upset. But we know ethics are still needed. And people of today, even if they are not Christians, expect there to be a Church to show them their responsibilities in the world they live in. Certainly it has been proved that the heterosexual-dominated established church institution can not or will not do this for gays. Therefore, the only solution has been--and is--an independent gay Christian movement.

"A real friend doubles my possibilities and adds his strength to mine, and makes a well-nigh irresistible force possible to me."
Emerson

Diocese Votes 'Pro' Women

The Episcopal diocese of Tennessee voted to remove all restrictions based on sex for candidates to the priesthood.

This vote, taken at the denomination's diocesan convention in Chattanooga, does not mean that women in Tennessee may now become priests. The vote is more of a "letter" to be considered at General Convention scheduled for September. (General Convention comprises all of the dioceses throughout the United States.)

The clergy voted 79-34 in favor of the resolution; the lay delegates voted 115-94.

The ordination of women to the priesthood, a controversial and heated topic since the irregular 1974 ordination of 11 women in Philadelphia, is top priority for Integrity, the gay Episcopal organization.

According to gay leaders, ordination of women will be pushed first, then the ordination of acknowledged gays.

Allison Cheek, one of the ordained 11 and one of *Time's* 12 women of the year, predicts that the public may change their masculine view of God, and that the feminine attributes of God will receive more emphasis.

Council of English Teachers Searching for Panel Papers

Papers are sought for a panel "Towards a Healthy Gay Presence in Textbooks and Classrooms" for the Nov. 25-27 convention of National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) scheduled to be in Chicago.

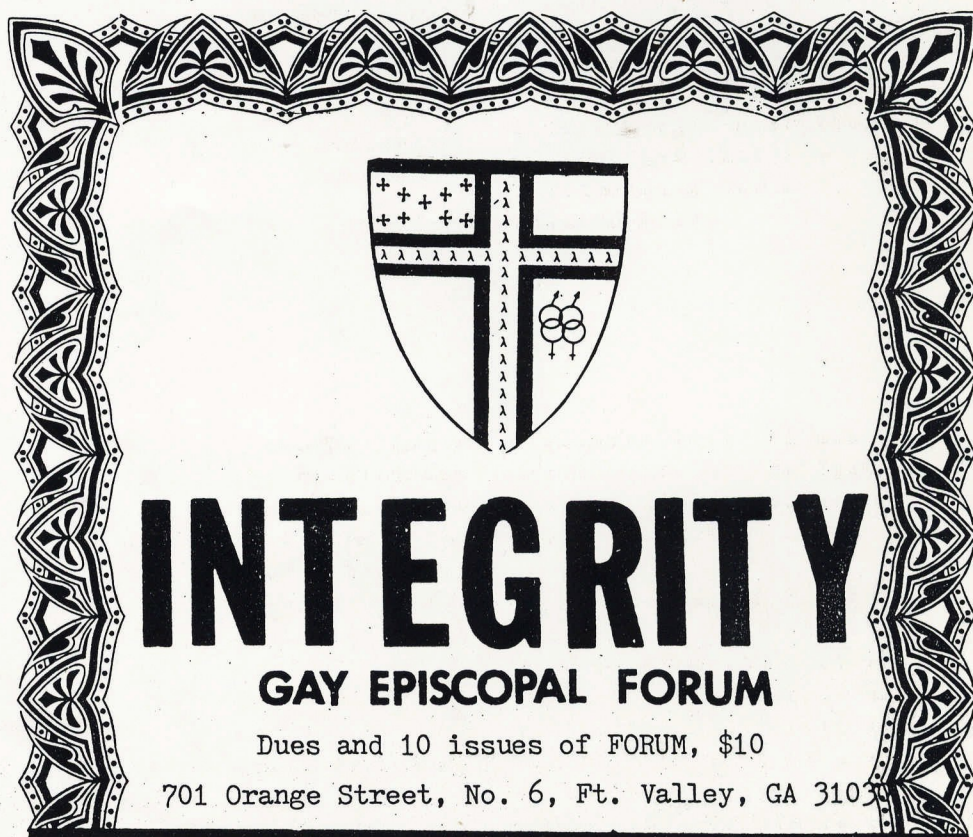
The panel will focus on the secondary school as well as the college setting. Non-gays as well as gays are encouraged to participate.

Deadline for program details is Mar. 15. For more information, contact panel

organizer Prof. Louie Crew, Department of English, Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, GA 31030.

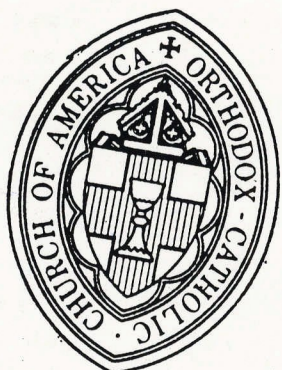
Gay Caucus Forming

NCTE members interested in forming a gay caucus and petitioning for meeting space at the convention are asked to write Professor Crew. Gay women to coordinate women's issues and assure a fair balance in planning are especially needed.



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HERE IS A HOUSE WITHOUT A CLOSET!

A traditional Church that you can enter proudly and as yourself, without fear of censure or denunciation.

Contrary to the Christianity you may have known through association with mainline-established churches ours is a new concept, for we have turned back to the early Christian ethic (the Apostolic era) for our guidance. With some boldness, we have taken the grave clothing off Christ as we defy and challenge the discriminating theology of modern Christianity. We are an out-going Church, a Church of love where we, as adults, worship an adult God, not a nineteenth century prude or a sixteenth century tyrant such as established Christianity has made of God. The God known to us is not obsessed with man-made prohibitions nor with local concepts of morality. We are a Church where the services are in the liturgical manner of traditional catholicism and founded in the Sacraments of our Lord. It is an open-door Church -- this "House of the Lord." And in His "House" there are no closets! There is no fear. For with Christ as our Head we experience only love...and His love casts out fear.

Our Church is the "premier presence" among gay Christians, having been organized in 1946 -- the world's first open and public ministry to and for gay Christians. Despite the smallness of our number and lack of resources, we have continued in this ministry these thirty years because we know that gay Christians have nothing to fear from their God. If you accept yourself honestly, then here is a Church where you can face your God openly ... with the same honesty and in all self-respect.

Presently we are making plans to establish new Missions in such diverse cities as Atlanta...Memphis...Charlotte (and elsewhere as your interest demands)...wherever two or three are gathered in His Name. Concerned Christians are invited to be a part of this venture. Plan now to become involved...give your support by assisting us in arranging 'get-acquainted' meetings in your city.

Who knows...you just may hold in your hand the key which will unlock many closet doors.

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'Pastiche' Promotes Arts Panel Discusses Legislation

by Martha Brummett

The Pastiche Group, Inc., is an organization devoted to the arts. Since its founding a few years ago, it has provided many programs for a city I consider somewhat devoid of cultural alternatives.

The group's standing is amateur, but its members are not. Many are noted musicians, artists, directors, and actors. And a significant number are respected and involved members of the Memphis gay community.

Their latest production was a double-bill of one-act plays: "The Diary of Adam and Eve," based on the writings of Mark Twain, and "Where the Rainbow Ends," a rock opera celebrating the Christian story of creation.

Both plays were given basically as dramatic readings. In "Diary," Robert Kirkham played the role of Snake, not only with his magnificent voice, but with subtly sinuous body movements that seemed to convey the character not to the conscious mind, but to a realm beneath it.

"Where the Rainbow Ends" was much more a group effort. The music was, of course, excellent. All the "Speakers" gave good performances: Dennis Massey was unsurpassed. The participants, in David Bowie-like makeup by Shirley

Greenhill, made Creation seem like Mardi Gras. The costumes (by Jane Turnage) were simple, yet festive, as was the set (designed by Elizabeth Davis and Robert Kirkham).

Other production credits go to: Dee Hansler, sound; Braden McKnight, stage manager; Mike Witek, lighting; and Robert Kirkham, artistic director.

Political legislation was discussed by panel and audience at N.O.W.'s February meeting.

Panel participants were Barbara Lawing, Democratic Party activist; Pat Vanderschaaf, City Council member, and Jane Hardaway, manager of employee services for the city and former Tennessee Public Service Commissioner.

Ms. Lawing was mediator and helped to correlate the different topics. She stressed citizens' responsibility in taking an active interest in political matters and the importance of formulating comprehensive plans before presenting a program to legislators.

Structure and protocol of the committee process, especially that of the City Council, was the primary topic of Ms. Vanderschaaf. She observed that citizens tend to be more actively concerned about narrow issues (such as particular zoning cases) than about propositions that will ultimately affect many people.

Ms. Hardaway discussed "politics after the election" --how legislators work together across party lines, setting priorities and making compromises to attain the goals of their constituents.

N.O.W. meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar. Next meeting will be Mar. 2. It is not necessary to be a member to attend.

Male C-R Group to Continue

The newly formed gay men's rap group has met twice in the last two months and, despite poor attendance so far, will continue to meet for at least two more months.

The purpose of the rap group, said coordinator Fred Harris, is to give gay men a non-bar environment in which they can get together to discuss mutual problems and share opinions and ideas about gayness and the gay scene.

The group meets at 7:30 on the third Monday night of each month at the Northeast Mental Health Center Annex, 3618 Summer.

The men's C-R was started following a conversation which Harris had with Help Now director Pat O'Shaughnessy. Mrs. O'Shaughnessy mentioned that the crisis line received several calls for assistance each month from gay males but had nowhere to send them except the bars. Gay women could be referred to the N.O.W. Sexuality Task Force and C-R groups, but nothing comparable existed for men.

The next rap group session will be Monday, Mar. 15. All gay men are invited to attend. Free coffee and doughnuts will be available.

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Governor Shapp Vetoes Anti-Gay Legislation

Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp, who issued an executive order last spring committing his administration to ending discrimination against gays, has vetoed the state's second bill aimed at limiting homosexual employment, but the chances are good that his veto will be overridden, according to Gina Vida of NGTF.

Introduced and passed by the Senate, this second bill specifically names homosexuals and specifies police, corrections, and hospital jobs.

Shapp is shortly expected to establish a Commission on Sexual Minorities.

NGTF solicited the following letter from the American Psychiatric Association, which was sent Jan. 29:

As President of the American Psychiatric Association, I wish to express my strong support for your recent courageous and appropriate veto of legislation which would have singled out particular categories of employment from which lesbians and gay men would have been excluded. There is no scientific basis for distinguishing between homosexual and heterosexual women and men in employment or licensing, as expressed in the civil rights resolution of this Association in December, 1973."

The letter, sent by A.P.A. President Judd Marmor, then quoted the resolution, which states that "homosexuality per se implies no impairment" and that discriminatory legislation be repealed.

House Must Also Approve

Kansas Senate Legalizes Sodomy

TOPEKA, KS--The Kansas State Senate has approved a bill legalizing sodomy between consenting adults in private, the Feb. 10 Kansas City Times reports.

The measure was passed Feb. 9 by a vote of 27 to 12.

While approving the "consenting adults" bill, the Senate simultaneously passed a companion bill which prohibits the issuance of marriage licenses to two persons of the same sex. This latter measure was approved by a vote of 39-0.

The sponsor of both bills is Senator Elwayne Pomeroy, a Topeka Republican. He said

that he submitted the consenting adults bill to "get the state out of the bedroom" where private sexual behavior was involved.

While noting that the existing Kansas sex laws are generally not enforced, he said that their removal from the books would prevent possible selective enforcement.

A statute banning homosexual marriages is necessary, Pomeroy said, because they are not clearly prohibited under Kansas laws. A similar measure he sponsored two years ago passed the Senate, Pomeroy said, but was defeated in the House following pro-

tests by Kansas gay groups.

In addition to approving the two gay-related bills, the Senate also voted to repeal statutes prohibiting adultery and unlawful cohabitation. Present Kansas laws make it a crime for persons to live together as man and wife without being legally married.

Under the terms of the "consenting adults" bill, the old sodomy statute will be replaced with a law prohibiting bestiality.

The sodomy legalization bill and the other measures will now go to the Kansas House of Representatives for consideration there, the Times said.

Highway Patrol Can't Fire Gay Employee, Court Says

The King County Superior Court in the state of Washington has issued a precedent setting decision ordering reinstatement of Douglas Wyman, gay employee of the state highway patrol, stating that homosexuality cannot be used as a bar to employment.

In his opinion issued Feb. 3, Judge Edward E. Henry said that Wyman had been a "victim of his own honesty" and declined to accept the state's argument that public knowledge that the patrol hired homosexuals would bring it discredit. He ruled that the state failed to show any connection between sexual preference and job performance.

Wyman is a communications technician who was trained in his specialty by the Army

Security Agency, and served for a time, with top-secret clearance, with the National Security Agency. It was while he was with NSA that he "came out" as a homosexual, and he went to his commanding officer to tell him so, to avoid any possibility of blackmail. He was given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

He was hired by the Washington Highway Patrol in Sept., 1974, and was fired a month later after he volunteered the fact that he was gay to a department investigator.

Henry was the second judge in the case. The first, a Judge Smith, disqualified himself because he was prejudiced against homosexuals.

'Cuckoo' Funny; Production Good

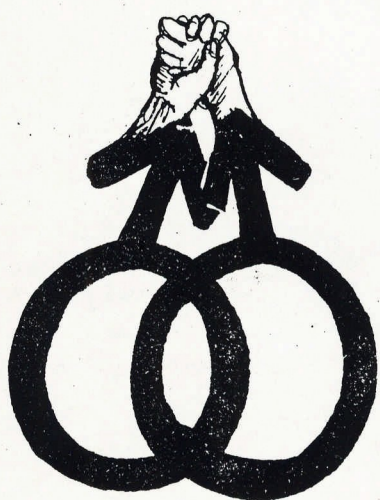
(Continued from page 7)

"Cuckoo's Nest" is full of funny lines, and the audience will chuckle right along, but either McMurphy will win or Ratched will win.

Other fine performances were given by Brad Dourif, as Billy Bibbitt, and Will Sampson, in the role of Chief Bromden. Sampson brings true humor and a couple of instances where you might just want to stand up and cheer. The music by Jack Nitzche is such that movie buffs will probably want to rush right out and buy the soundtrack. The photography by Haskell Wexler is magnificent, especially in the last scene of the film.

BILLY, DANNY, DAVID & WAYNE

wish to thank all of the gay community
that gave so generously to our defense
against false arrest and charges



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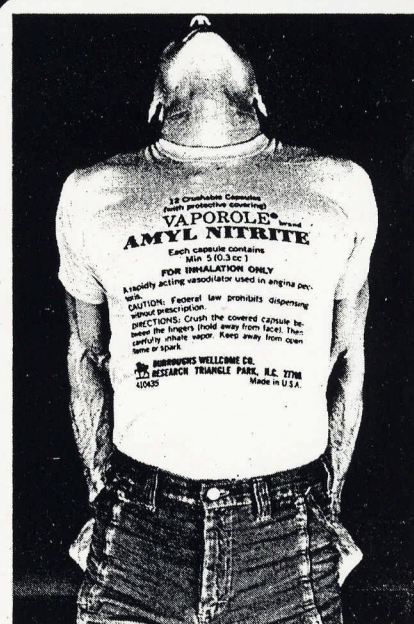
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Homosexual Rights Affirmed by ACLU In Recent Statement

A new policy statement updating and expanding the rights of gays has been affirmed by the American Civil Liberties Union, according to Chan Kendrick, state executive director.

ACLU office for the state of Tennessee is located here in Memphis in Suite 1501, 81 Madison Building. Phone number is 521-9875. The Rights of Gay People is available from this office.

As adapted by the national board of directors, the new policy statement reads:

"Homosexuals are entitled to the same rights, liberties, lack of harassment and protections as are other citizens.

"The ACLU opposes criminal restraints on public solicitation for private sexual behavior between or among adults of the same sex. Such restraints provide the stimulus for government harassment of homosexuals even in the absence of criminal charges.

"The ACLU also opposes discrimination in public and private housing and accommodations, government benefits, occupational licensing, and government and private employment--including the teaching of children and jobs requiring security clearance--simply because the person is a homosexual."

The policy also specifically opposes limitations on the custody and visitation rights of parents because of their sexual preference, and governmental and private attempts to prevent homosexuals from speaking out about homosexuality and from forming political and social groups.

ACLU lawyers are presently defending T/Sgt. Leonard Matlovich who made national news recently when the Air Force discharged him after he told his superior officer that he is gay.

So You've Caught the Crabs!

(Editor's Note: Response to GAIETY's articles on gonorrhea and syphilis was good, and requests have been made for a similar article on another subject--a very annoying but too common problem--

Judge Rules FBI Exempt

Employees of the FBI are not protected by the recent U.S. Civil Service Commission regulations permitting gays to work for the federal government, a U. S. District Judge has ruled.

Judge Thomas A. Flannery made this ruling in denying the reinstatement request of former FBI clerk Donald R. Ashton, Jr., the Advocate reports. Ashton was forced to resign in January, 1975, when FBI investigators learned that he was homosexual.

In his decision, Flannery noted that a section of the Handbook for FBI Employees states that "The FBI...expects and requires that high standards of personal conduct on the part of its employees be maintained not only when they are engaged in their official duties but while off duty." Because of this, the judge said, Ashton could not claim surprise that factors other than his job performance were considered by the Bureau when deciding whether to continue his employment.

The opinion did not go into the issue of whether homosexuality would be an adequate basis for dismissal, the Advocate said, but dealt only with Ashton's argument that his "coerced resignation" had deprived him of fifth amendment property rights.

Ashton initially signed a letter of resignation, but a few days afterwards saw an attorney and demanded reinstatement.

public lice, or more popularly, crabs.)

Technically called Phthirus pubis, crabs are lice about the size of a pinhead, flat-bodied and wingless. They infest pubic hair because there they are warm, protected, and have ample access to their favorite food--human blood.

Crabs are parasites; that is, they live on other animals. They are not a disease, venereal or otherwise, though they may carry a disease.

Crabs are usually contracted by having sex with a person who has them, but they may also be acquired by sleeping in a bed recently occupied by someone who has crabs.

Unless a person is looking for them, public lice may be difficult to see, at first, but they make their presence irritatingly known--by itching. You will have an itch around your genitals, and possibly your armpits and other hairy parts of the body.

If you are extremely allergic to the lice bites, you may get a light-blue rash around the genitals. If your lover or latest trick has the same symptoms, you can be even more sure.

Look for small, yellow-grey or rust-colored dots attached to your pubic hair near the skin. The eggs, which are even easier to find, are hard and white. You may feel them before you see the crabs themselves.

Unglamorous and unpleasant clues to the presence of crabs are the tiny flecks of blood that you may find on your underwear and bed linen.

If indeed you have crabs, you have two choices: (1) Visit your doctor or the Health Clinic (814 Jefferson) and get a prescription for a lotion or shampoo or (2) Try a non-prescription shampoo. Although a prescription shampoo is recommended because of its effectiveness, the non-prescription treatment will also work, but it may take more time.

(It should be noted here that shaving the pubic area is no longer considered necessary. Shampooing vigorously according to instructions will do the job, without the tell-tale re-growth period.)

After treatment, change into completely clean clothing. Your lover and everybody else in the household needs to be treated at the same time as you. Wash all sheets, towels, etc.

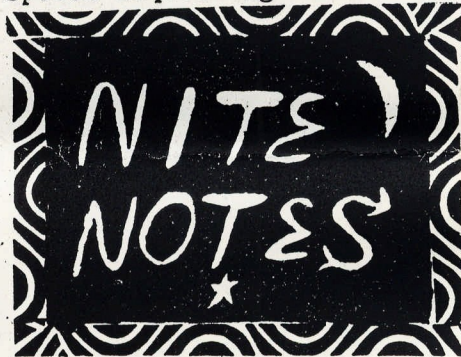
There is no way to "prevent" crabs. The best procedure is simply to avoid intimate contact with anyone who has them until you are sure that that person has been treated effectively.

D.C. Activist Named To Delegate Slate

An open gay is among the candidates from whom Democratic voters in the District of Columbia will choose delegates for the party's national convention.

Paul J. Kuntzler, a Washington D.C. gay activist, was selected to be on one of two slates of Democratic delegate candidates, the Advocate reports. Kuntzler is on the slate supported by District of Columbia mayor Walter Washington and many members of the local Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) chapter, a liberal political group. Another, and competing, slate of District of Columbia Democratic delegate candidates is sponsored by U. S. Congressional Delegate Walter Fauntroy and most Democratic members of the District of Columbia city council.

At the caucus in which the delegate candidates were selected, Kuntzler had strong support from both gays and straights and received the votes of 100 of the 182 persons casting ballots. Mayor Washington indicated his personal support by standing to applaud Kuntzler's brief speech requesting votes.



B.J.'S CABARET, 1382 Poplar, Tuesday: Beer bust and show, 7-10 p.m., draft beer, \$2 at door.

FRONT PAGE, 267 S. Cleveland, Tuesday: Beer bust, 8-11 p.m., draft and set-ups (except juices), \$2 at door. Sunday: Afternoon party, draft and set-ups (except juices), 35 cents, no cover.

GEORGE'S THEATRE LOUNGE, 1786 Madison, Wednesday: Beer bust and show, 7-10 p.m., draft beer, \$1 at door. Thursday: Movies, 9 p.m., \$1 at door. Sunday: Beer bust and show, 4-7 p.m., draft beer, \$1 at door.

HITCHIN' POST, 1208 Lamar, Monday through Thursday: All the draft you can drink, \$1 cover. Friday and Saturday no cover.

PSYCH-OUT, 76 N. Cleveland, Wednesday: Pitcher night, 4 p.m. - 2 a.m., draft beer, \$1.75 a pitcher.

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J.J. Astrologers

Aquarians and Pisceans Exhibit Creativity, Ambition

The Sign of AQUARIUS
by Imogene Williams

AQUARIUS, the humanitarian fixed sign, is represented by Uranus, the planet of erratic behavior. This is the sign of great aspiration, hopes, and wishes, and the result is ambition. The ambition is to make things different and ideal. Aquarians have a strong inventive power, and because the sign is air and fixed, they will not stop until their desired goal is attained. The idea of Aquarians is that their philosophies are right, and sometimes they carry them to extremes. Aquarius is the natural ruler of the 11th house of friendship. The ruler of Aquarius (Uranus) gives them good reasoning, practical as well as theoretical ability. They have strong likes and dislikes, but are slow to anger. Aquarians' ideas are radical and advanced in thought. February is the month to learn more about the world around you. Be sure you understand your need for identification and respond favorably.

makes them feel right at home performing before the public. There are many successful movie stars who are Pisces, such as Elizabeth Taylor and Jerry Lewis. There is a duality in the Piscean nature that leads them to deceive themselves as well as others. The double-bodied zodiacal symbol gives them a personality that consists of opposed elements that either does, as seen in the positive Picean, or does not, as seen in the negative, strike a viable medium between the two harmoniously. Pisceans who are born in the first decans have extremely powerful erotic drives. But in the last decans, from Mar. 13-20, the drives lessen rapidly, so by the time of middle age, it is not unusual to find Pisces women who are frigid and men who are impotent. Pisces men and women are known to be very loyal, faithful, and protective.

March PREDICTIONS
by Andy Cyrus

This is a month of new beginnings. Astrological emphasis for all signs is on the entrance of Mars into Cancer Mar. 18 and on Jupiter entering Taurus Mar. 26.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 - Mar. 20)

Step up your activities. Talking and interacting with new people will bring romance and enjoyment.

ARIES

(Mar. 21 - Apr. 19)

There is a need to be alert for business opportunity and to be alert on the job, for financial benefits may be obtained through capitalizing on the right moment.

TAURUS

(Apr. 20 - May 20)

Look for others to open doors for you. Friends are liable to prove their worth and value. Personal happiness is yours for the asking.

GEMINI

(May 21 - June 21)

Emphasis is shifting now toward a slowing down of your expenditures. Be careful to put away private savings for the rainy days ahead. Be on guard against spending your earnings too quickly.

CANCER

(June 22 - July 22)

Relief from depression of financial trouble can come unexpectedly from an unknown source. Now you can pay more attention to other things.

LEO

(July 23 - Aug. 22)

Be perceptive to the things others are attempting to tell you. Amplification of their ideas with sincerity will help you to improve conditions and can bring you out of your present slump.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Many of you are on the verge of insanity and are looking for a release. You may find that group activities can help you during these troubled times.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Do not be frustrated by present conditions. Your

lover's ideas are sound and can be used to fulfill a dream that you've had for a long time.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

As you help others you may be sure to claim some of the rewards. Try to get to know your friends better.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You can look for job opportunity and advancement to come your way now. It will be good to take care of matters such as life insurance, health coverage, wills, etc. Influences are favorable for such things.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Expect unusual things from friends and lovers. Watch your temper while you try to find the answers to life's mystery.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Matrimony is ever present on your mind. Make sure it stays within the bounds of reality, or you may be going off on a tangent that you will regret later.

Calendar

- March 7: Metropolitan Community Church Study Group
Worship Service, 224 N. Watkins, 3 p.m.
" 10: Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force (NOW)
Business Meeting, 166 Poplar, 7:30 p.m.
" 14: MCC Worship Service, 224 N. Watkins 3 p.m.
" 15: Gay Men's Rap Group, 3618 Summer, 7:30 p.m.
" 17: Lesbian C-R Group, 166 Poplar, 7:30 p.m.
" 21: MCC Worship Service, 224 N. Watkins. 3 p.m.
" 24: S&L Task Force Feminist Ideology Discussion
Group, 166 Poplar, 7:30 p.m.
" 28: MCC Worship Service, 224 N. Watkins, 3 p.m.

J.J.
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Attorney's Request Seen As Influential

(Continued from page 1)
harassment by the police.
It is speculated that the City Attorney decided not to press charges after this letter from the men's lawyer was received by the police legal advisor, the city court prosecutor, and the assistant police chief (copy of the letter was obtained from the defendants):

"You will recall that I discussed the above captioned cases with you a few days ago and stated that possibly I would need the names of certain individuals that were present at the time the above defendants were charged and processed at the Police Station....

"1. I request the full name and rank of each Police Officer, male or female, that was on duty at the time these men were charged on the second floor of the Police Station.

"2. I further request that name and rank of each Police Officer, male or female, that further processed these individuals on the fifth floor of the Police Station on the date in question.

"If there are any problems in complying with my requests, I would appreciate you advising me of same. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated, and I need this information immediately in view of the fact that I intend to subpoena some or all of these individuals at the time this matter is heard on January 20, 1975."

Open Gay Named In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO--An open gay has been named to this city's Board of Permit Appeals by the new San Francisco mayor, George Moscone.

Harvey Milk, camera store owner and candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors last fall, was one of several persons named by Moscone. In the Board of Supervisors race, which is like the City Council in Memphis, Milk finished seventh out of some 20 candidates, just missing a seat on the six-person governing body.

To Be Super-Fair

Asked about his appointment, Milk was quoted by the San Francisco Chronicle as saying, "I have to be super-fair so that other gays can be proud that I'm doing a good job and so the bigots will be surprised.

"But I'm not going to change the way I look at things to please everybody," he added.

Dear Mother, Father: Because I'm Gay!

Dear Mother and Father,

I can no longer make tired jokes about my celibacy or tolerate the "friendly" abuse about my single status. I'm not married because I'm gay. The son that you are proud of is so many respects is a fag. I know that this is going to be very difficult for you to understand or accept; I don't fully understand it myself. But consider this, if you will. Little kids relate to each other on the basis of simple joy; a coefficient of niceness. Kids having fun together don't discriminate according to traditional grown-up criteria: sex, color, or religion. They only know that some kids are nice and fun to be with, and others are not. As kids grow up, they are taught that it is good to love everyone, as we are all God's children (provided, of course, that they go to our church.) We are taught to love others as our brothers and sisters (provided that they are of our race and political affiliation.) We later learn that this word "love" is very general, that we should not (God forbid!) actually love a person of our own sex, as this will not add our share to the copulation explosion. Many religions foster the belief that homosexual love is a sinful affront to God. (I've often wondered, back in the olden days when I attended church services, who created Blacks, Gays, and Communists.)

What I'm getting at is that this form of discrimination is a learned response. We are taught that to be straight is good and that God will smile on us and let us go to Disneyland on the Fourth of July. To be gay is a degenerate sinfulness and God will banish us to the depths of hell or maybe Salt Lake City.

Believe me, I'd give anything if I had been born straight instead of gay; not because I'm ashamed of being gay, but because I'm afraid of the reactions of straight society. I long to be free and open and honest, but, of course, I can't, and still maintain my position with the firm.

Please, please, don't blame yourselves; there is

nothing you could have done for me that you did not do. One of the biggest travesties of truth and justice committed on the entire gay issue by the movie industry, popular press, and some religions is to propagate the theory that sexual orientation is universally changeable. It is not. No more so than you can change your bone structure or eye color. The real benefit that we can derive from psychology and psychiatry is to learn to accept ourselves and live without guilt for our orientation.

You know I've never been a religious person; a devout heathen with pagan leanings would be as close a description as any. If you accept the theory of God, than you must also accept that God would not create gays without reason. After all, if everything God does has purpose, It could be that we are God's way of population control. Granted, in the beginning, God said, "Go forth, multiply, and replenish the earth." But humanity has interpreted this to mean, "Propagate, propagate, propagate." So now God is stepping in, creating more gays to slow down this out-of-control human nuclear reactor. Wild? Farfetched? Sacrilegious? Probably. But can you find a more logical

purpose for us, from God's standpoint? I can't.

Another reason I have chosen to tell you I'm gay is that I love you; I would not want you to find out the way Walter Sipple's family found out. This man and his family relationship have been demolished by the press. What Walter Sipple did was save President Ford's life. For this humanitarian act, he was rewarded with ridicule, scorn, and gross invasion of privacy.

I need your love and acceptance now, more than ever before. I don't have much hope for finding a lifetime partner, a lover, at my age. But, of course, this doesn't stop me from hoping anyway. It would be my fondest wish that if I ever do find the man I want to share the rest of my life with, I could take him home and introduce him to my family. And have you accept and love him as you love me.

Pray for me, Mother and Father. Not that I'll go straight, but that I'll come to terms with my gayness, and eventually find happiness and an end to loneliness.

Your loving son,
Hawkeye

(Reprinted from FOCUS, Garden Grove, California, February, 1976.)

Gish Still Active Theatrically

Whatever happened to Lillian Gish?

Lillian Gish, a child actress in 1901, is still active theatrically. She appeared recently in a Broadway production, "A Musical Jamboree," where she was hugged backstage by her contemporary, Helen Hayes.

Ms. Gish made her comeback

in 1968 when she tried her talents with the musical comedy "I Never Sang For My Father." Between then and now she toured the lecture circuit.

She is perhaps best known for her work with director D. W. Griffith in the silent film, "Birth Of A Nation." Ms. Gish never married.

New Logo Designed For Gay Christians

After 30 years of existence, the gay Christian community has its own symbol. The Most Rev. George Hyde, Orthodox Catholic Archbishop of Washington and Atlanta, designed the new symbol exclusively for gay churches.

The new "logo" is an open book, representing the Gospels. On the left page of the open book is a chalice, and above this is a representation of the altar bread. Together these represent the Eucharistic Presence of Christ. On the right page of the open book hangs the stole, a sign of the priestly office. Behind all of this is the crozier (shepherd's crook), symbolizing both the teaching authority of the church (the bishop), and Christ "the good shepherd."



A REPRODUCTION OF A NEW SYMBOL (LOGO) designed for the gay Christian ministries in America.

**The Queen's Men
welcome**

THE HITCHIN' POST

'Misadventures' Unusual Book; Message If You Want

The Misadventures of Tim McPick or The Story of Tim and His Zipper, Daniel Curzon. John Parke Curtis Press, 1975. \$3.50, paperback.

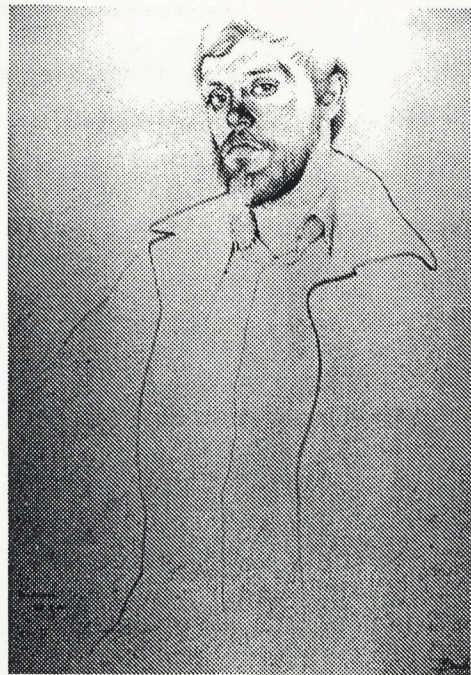
by Wayne Maness

The deeds, misdeeds, and narrow escapes of a young gay man and his Zipper make up the plot of Daniel Curzon's "picaresque" "comic Novel." Tim McPick is the young gay man, a student at Student's U. The starting point for the novel is Tim's being informed that his parents have been killed in a car wreck. After the funeral is over, Tim and his Zipper, his sister Terri, and his Aunt Nelly are on their way home when they have a wreck and all four of them are killed.

(No, that is not really what happened; remember, this is a comedy. Here is what really happened.)

After the funeral, Tim and his Zipper said good-by to Terri and Aunt Nelly, and Tim went off to join the Army. We all know that there are no gays in the Army because men like Dr. Sfinkter, the psychiatrist who examined Tim before he joined, always weed out us undesirables. However, Tim was able to pass Dr. Sfinkter's test by fooling the penometer. All is not

well for Tim, though, because shortly after entering the Army, he becomes the victim of a cleverly-conceived trap set by Dr. Sfinkter and Dr. Schmell, a man whose job in the Army is to study the bowel movements of troops in Thailand. This entrapment in



Author Daniel Curzon

a bathroom stall with another soldier leads to Tim's being court-martialed. Just when it seems like there is no hope, Tim manages to escape from the courtroom and elude his persecutors until he can rejoin his Zipper and escape by hitchhiking.

From this point on, Tim and his Zipper have every kind of adventure imaginable. The driver of the car that picked them up is a speed demon who collides with a train and leaves Tim unconscious. A band of gypsies rescues him, but Tim decides that this is not the life for him. He and his Zipper have to keep running to escape Sfinkter and Schmell, fighting their way through crocodiles in underground sewers and motorcycle maniacs who hijack subway trains. They are finally caught by Sfinkter and Schmell and are about to be returned to custody, but fate intervenes. Sfinkter receives a rattlesnake bite in the vicinity of his sphincter, and Aunt Nelly saves his life by sucking out the venom. This is the beginning of the Nelly-Sfinkter romance.

The final adventure for Tim and his Zipper occurs when the helicopter in which they have escaped runs out of fuel and they are forced to land on the roof of a building. This building turns out to be Aipotu (spell it backwards), an all-gay community. It is here that Tim and his Zipper notice that Aunt Nelly has not shaved for a few days. Yes, folks, Aunt Nelly is really Uncle Nelson who died many years ago. This

information elicits little more than a shrug from Tim and not even a bark from his Zipper.

The Misadventures of Tim McPick is the most unusual gay book I have ever read. There is a message there for those who want their books to have a message. There are abundant illustrations of the lengths to which some organizations will go to pursue gays, while criminals go free. The next time you want to read something that is different, try this book.

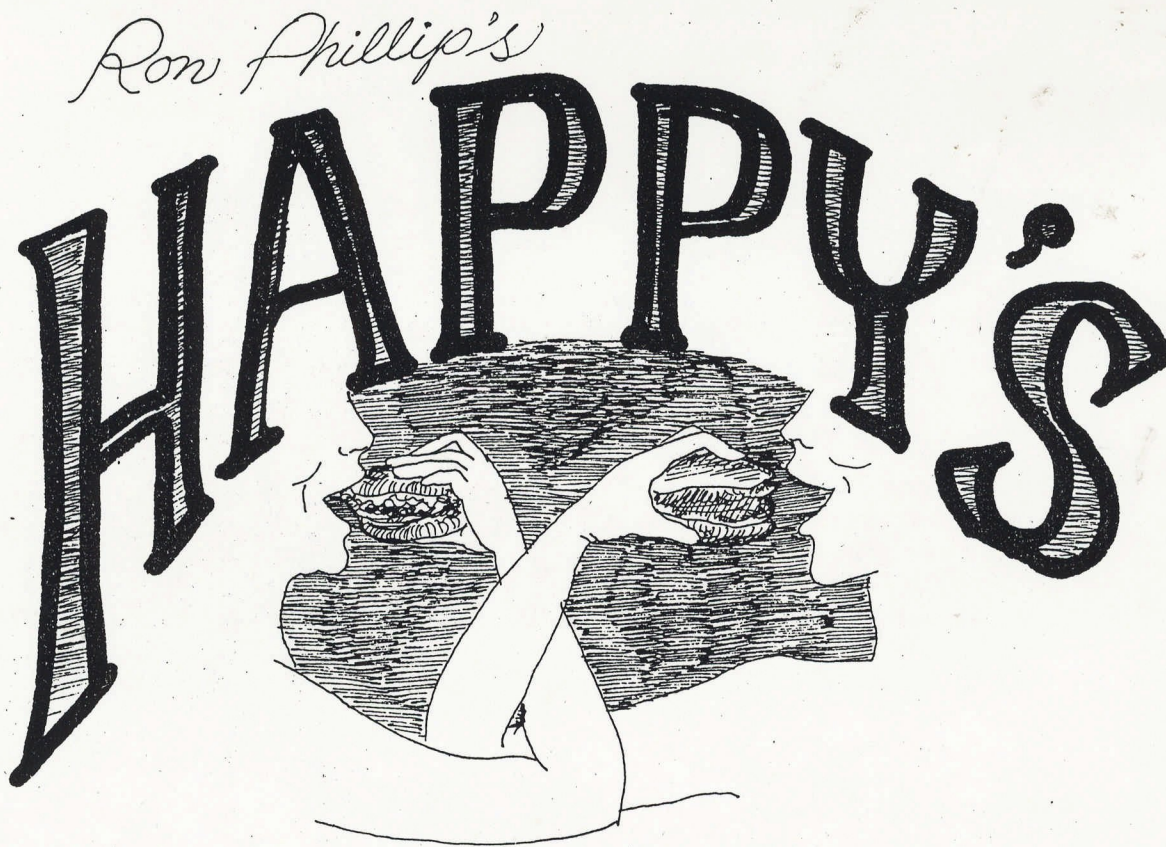
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"Perhaps the most delightful friendships are those in which there is much agreement, much disputation, and yet more personal liking." Eliot

The Queen's Men

welcome

THE FRONT PAGE



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GAA Claims 'War on Movement' Declared

Gay Activists Alliance is circulating a letter among gay organizations claiming that the statement by David Goodstein in his "Opening Space" column of the Jan. 14 Advocate "constitutes a virtual declaration of war on the gay liberation movement."

GAA says that the aim of Goodstein's piece was "to drive a wedge between the activist wing of the movement and the rest of the gay community."

The following quotations from the article are cited:

"Almost everything of any significance is being done behind the scenes by people who do not wish to be known or exposed to harassment by other gay people, especially by self-appointed gay leaders."

"The straight media pay attention to them (gay spokespeople) because they confirm the stereotypes they're looking for. Our people resent them for the same reason. They appear unemployable, unkempt, and neurotic to the point of megalomania."

GAA charges that the Advocate "prefers exclusion, excision, and outright slander to the free and open exchange of ideas."

Goodstein claims (in his article) that the gay activist movement has turned its back on the vast majority of

gays, who "would like to participate in our exciting movement," but who "want reassurance from those of us who are veterans that they are wanted as they are-- closeted."

GAA has responded by saying that "The entire thrust

of the movement has been to create the conditions in which ever greater numbers of gay people would feel they could come out publicly without running the risk of losing their jobs, their friends, their apartments, their livelihood."

'Advocate' Sends Explanation

In response to a letter from GAILETY requesting David Goodstein's answer to the letter currently being circulated by GAA regarding his Opening Space column in the Jan. 14 Advocate, Editor Gary Poe has received a four-page reply from David Cyper, assistant to the publisher, who wrote in Goodstein's absence.

Printed below are portions of that letter:

"The problem with the critics of this Opening Space, so far, is that they have missed the point. Mr. Goodstein tried in it to point out that his observation is that most gay spokespeople are disconnected from the gay majority. (He was careful never to say "all" spokespeople, or "always" disconnected.)

"...His experience of the gay majority's view of our

spokespeople, by and large, is that they are unrepresentative and intolerant. He also shared the experience of many gay people who have tried to join community action only to be turned off by the rhetoric and by the espousing of values they do not share.

"...Mr. Goodstein looked around to observe the way it is. He articulated what he saw. He was careful in his Opening Space not to say that the way it is appeared right or wrong to him. Whether one thinks the way it is, is right or wrong does not change the way it is. When medieval kings killed the messenger who brought them bad news, the execution did not make the news better. On the other hand, it seems that Mr. Goodstein's critics' view is that because the way it is, is wrong, it isn't that way."

Texas Bicentennial To Feature Project: 'Sense of Belonging'

An official part of the bicentennial celebration in San Antonio, TX; this spring will include gay persons among its participants.

Entitled "Gay in San Antonio--A Sense of Belonging?", the project is part of a conference and accompanying display, "Voices/Images," to be held April 30 and May 1.

It will be funded by the American Issues Forum Committee of San Antonio, a non-profit umbrella foundation for minority groups.

Scheduled speakers for the conference include: Karen DeCrow, national N.O.W. president, lawyer, and feminist; Gene Leggett, Texas Methodist minister who was suspended in 1971 because of his sexual preference;

Elaine Noble, "first self-avowed homosexual" to attain state office on a gay rights ticket; and Dwight Oberholzer, associate professor of sociology at Pacific Lutheran College in Seattle, WA, and editor of the book, Is Gay Good? Ethics, Theology and Homosexuality.

Purpose of the conference is to explore how gay women and men relate culturally with non-gay women and men.

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Stars Expose Gays, Astrologers Claim

by Imogene Williams

Psychologists say that homosexuality is derived from an early childhood neurosis having to do with a mother or father fixation. They say that this fixation manifests itself in later years with a love for the same sex because of an inferiority complex toward the other sex.

Many astrologers have done research on the subject, however, and have concluded that an affliction to Mars and Neptune or certain positions of Venus, the love planet, in birth charts gives an individual a certain sex bias.

J.J. Astrologers has combined certain evidence in a study of gay charts over a period of years, and has concluded that there is indeed a planetary explanation for being gay!

In all charts studied we have found the Eastern section of the birth chart heavily and powerfully activated. Often there is a grouping of planets in two signs. There are the unknown gays who stew in their own juice, and the known gays who make the world mentally stew in theirs--but they are all cut from the same cloth.

The heavily influenced planets on the Eastern half of the chart enable homosexuals to produce an independence of thought unequalled in heterosexual individuals. The need for freedom of thought and mind is ever present with this configuration of planets in a chart.

Unless there is more than one other person involved, the nature of a gay is to be loving and always willing to give his or her partner the benefit of the doubt.

The liberation movement has proven that there is safety in numbers, and gays no longer must feel by themselves in their quest for the right to be gay.

City Not Liable In Gay Bar Fire

NEW ORLEANS, LA--The city of New Orleans has no liability in the 1973 Upstairs Lounge fire which killed 32 persons, Judge Gerald Federoff has ruled.

Relatives of the fire victims had filed suit against the city, charging that the local Fire Prevention Bureau knew of various violations in the bar but failed to have them corrected, the Advocate reports.

SCORE BOARD

I love you, bitch. 5-11-75. Happy birthday, Jim. I love you. J.C.N.

"Loretta: Johnny who?"

Miss Hamm--you're a real doll. Happy late Valentine. J.P.

MAE, I guess you know Maker's MARK now.

Thanks to Chip, Charles, and Norman. Anita.

No, J.V., no one saw you and Loretta Douche Bag come out of your office..together..(?)

James Douglas--wow! Jerri.

P. and B.--Congratulations on your 3rd anniversary. Dennis

The Environmental Protection Agency did less to clean up the Cuban oil slick than Billy Jo.

Chuck, leave Danny alone!!

Billy Jo sees greener pastures at the California Cow Palace. Moo.

The closet's filled up. Eat your heart out, Wayne. By D. B.

Lady Jane Grey lost her head once, one hopes she doesn't a second time...over Phyllis.

WHOOOPS! Sorry I missed your Birthday, Bobbie...Will you ever forgive me?

Have you ever seen B. J. do her imitation of Shirley Temple singing "On the Good Ship Lillipop?"

Phyllis and Bill have decided to buy a used Manure Spreader since they spread so much #&@% anyway..

(Phil) LIZ, Lust is God's way of getting even.

Phyllis - You may have beaten us in football once, but next time we'll have Odessa. Muttley.

I understand the Cow Palace is having horror shows Thursdays. So what's new? "The Green Goddess."

Who pulled the plug on Miss Gay Memphis...Which Place?

Eleanor, is it true you are growing a Rose on the Moon?

The S.L.A. and Ray Jean have one thing in common.

Who would leave a note at Boudreaux's when she knows she has something better in Room 227?

Billy Jo, Billy Jo, Billy Jo, Rosie. Shirley, Shirley, Sebrina. Next...Ray, Ray, Ray (just made the front ppage).

Phyllis! You still have a chance. Biloxi! Again this year. Michelle.

Wait you bitches, Mickey Mouse will outshine you yet. Minnie.

Viola--knockers up, love ya! Jerri.

Bow-Wow.

Seems like our new Havana dish is a lot like their cigars--one good draw and they are stubbed out---expensive but stinks up a bar.

Dear Fuzzyhead, In spite of all, I love you. I miss you. B.

Phyllis is not the only one having trouble with another person's car--one assumes the red car is fixed and about to be returned to its rightful owner.

Position Wanted. Uninsured Chauffeur. Collision guaranteed. Reference.

Bernice Jones--for a woman, you're a great boss.

Welcome to the bar scene Sharon's South #1 and South #2.

Aren't those rather expensive stocks for demolition derbies?

Tiffany's not the same since her oil change.

Lynn--Let's play doctor! D.J.

It will be one very small broken tiara!

Is it true...C. W. is a J. V. operative? Wham!!!

Jo: Why the exile? --N.B.

Ray Jean, he never promised you a rose garden.

Lisa: "We ain't got it easy, but we got it." Let's keep it. I love you always. Martha

Lady Jane: We both have the same problem...we know what we want.

There'samad dog on the prowl.

Phyllis is the new Front Page "News Editor."

Suddenly that LTD wasn't so bad.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TARA WELLS

Lila, I want everyone to know that I recognize the countless times you have ignored important things to devote your time and your self to me and to GAIETY. I don't know how I could have been so lucky as to have someone like you on my side. Thank you. Love, Gary.

Catholic? Concerned? Want to know more? Write DIGNITY --a national organization of gay and concerned people. Write: DIGNITY, 755 Boylston St., Room 514, Boston, MA 02116.

FRUSTRATION by Buddy Haynes

I saw you on the street that day, arms loaded down with groceries. And I knew then that I had to know you. So, I followed you home to find out where home was. But you never knew I was there.

Later that night, I was sitting in the bar, alone And you walked in.... I knew then was my chance, so I sent you a drink, But you drank it and left. I waved and smiled as you left, But you never knew I was there.

Apathy Thwarts Memphis Attempts At Gay Activism

(Continued from page 3)

And the effects of this general apathy could be clearly seen. In a decade when Atlanta gays were parading down Peachtree Street and New Orleans gays were picketing their city hall, Memphis homosexuals remained in their bars. As a gay "Age of Aquarius" dawned throughout the rest of the country, Memphis lingered in a closeted 1950s atmosphere.

Why Is Memphis Behind?

Several theories are offered to explain this retarded state of activism in the Memphis gay community. One of the most frequently heard is that the city is extremely conservative and simply will not tolerate any kind of gay activism. The authorities harass homosexuals who are privately and peaceably gathered in their bars as it is, proponents argue. Just imagine how they would respond to open homosexuals elsewhere.

Few will dispute that Memphis is one of the most conservative cities in the United States, and the South. This does not mean, however, that nothing can be done. Other conservative cities have seen significant advances following the efforts by local gays to actively improve their lot.

Also, gay activism in Memphis does not necessarily mean marching in the streets or picketing city hall, observers point out. Such "middle class" techniques as meeting with political representatives, and working with straight organizations can be ultimately more effective than demonstrations. The few contacts of this sort that have already been made in Memphis have been very satisfying, persons involved believe.

Finally, there are indications that not all local authorities are completely closed-minded towards gay people. Evidence suggests that at least a few city officials are slowly becoming aware of the non-stereotyped realities of homosexuality. In 1972, for example, when several young men were beaten and sexually abused by an armed male assailant, police seemed to recognize that they were dealing with a sadist rather than a homosexual. One high police official was quoted as saying, "A normal homosexual will not fool with this man."

Regional Backwardness?

Another supposed explanation for the backwardness of the Memphis gay community focuses on the origins of most of its members. Most Memphis homosexuals, like the rest of the city's residents, are either native Memphians or are from surrounding rural West Tennessee, Arkansas, or Mississippi. Relatively few are from beyond the Mid-South region, and fewer still from the East or West coasts.

Because of this background, the theory goes, most Memphis homosexuals have lower expectations of what the community should offer than gays elsewhere. For many, the existence of a gay bar here at all is a wondrous thing and a major advance over what they had previously. Such things as social centers and activist groups are East and West coast phenomena which have little to do with local realities.

Critics of this "regional backwardness" theory point out that it is stupid to generalize about a group of people simply because of where they come from. Besides, they point out, some of the "rural" regions where many Memphians grew up are now as or more progressive than supposedly more advanced Memphis. Mississippi, for example, has a statewide activist gay organization which far surpasses anything in Memphis. Arkansas recently passed a progressive new criminal code which legalizes private homosexual relations.

Gay "Brain Drain"?

A third school of thought maintains that Memphis is like it is because of what might be called a gay "brain drain." Due to the city's repressive atmosphere and lack of opportunity, its proponents claim, most energetic and talented gays have moved away. Only untalented, unambitious, and job-trapped homosexuals remain in the city, and these are unable or unwilling to do anything in their own behalf.

Fred Harris and the editor of GAILETY recognize that this and the previous "Memphis Gay History" articles may not have covered all of the major places and events in the city and may have contained occasional factual errors. Any persons having any additional information or corrections about gay bars, groups, or other occurrences are asked to contact GAILETY. Your help will be appreciated, and your anonymity will be respected.

Others insist that this is not true, and that Memphis has as many creative, talented homosexuals as most cities of its size. Fear and apathy, rather than lack of talent, keep local homosexuals politically inactive.

Whatever the merits of these theories--and each bears critical examination--one fact is clear. Compared with other American cities of its size, Memphis is distinctly behind the times. It is the only American city of more than 500,000 people which does not have a gay activist group, for example, and one of very few without some kind of gay community center. While progress has been made in recent years, it is impressive only when contrasted with what the city had before. In any meaningful national comparison, Memphis still lags far behind.

At the Crossroads

So far, this series has concentrated on Memphis' gay past. This is a valid exercise, since we must know where we have been to know where we are going. In looking back, however, we must not forget what is vastly more important--the future which lies ahead.

Memphis has been called one of the 10 American communities with the most potential for growth. More than a town, yet not a real city, it wavers between a painful past and promising future. It is at the crossroads.

Gay Memphis is at the crossroads, too. It can remain the self-pitying victim of an unhappy past, or it can strive to become a free and self-respecting community in step with the rest of the nation. And the decision rests squarely with the city's homosexual population. External forces notwithstanding, it is the gay community, by its action or lack of it, who shall make the choice. Every gay Memphian bears responsibility for the outcome.

What You Can Do

There is something every gay Mid-Southerner can do to work for gay liberation without any personal risk to himself. There is presently in the U. S. House of Representatives a bill which if passed would ban discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing, public accommodations, and other areas. Entitled HR 5452 and introduced by Rep. Bella Abzug, the bill currently has 23 official co-sponsors. Much more support is needed if the bill is to be voted out of committee and into law.

YOU CAN HELP GET THIS BILL PASSED! By writing your U. S. Representative and asking him to support HR 5452, you can make clear to area Congressmen that Mid-Southerners--their constituents--are in favor of this bill. YOU DO NOT NEED TO SAY THAT YOU ARE GAY. Nor do you need to write a long letter; three or four sentences will be enough. Simply let the Congressman know that you support the gay civil rights bill and would like for him to support it too.

If you are afraid to sign your name, send an unsigned letter and explain that you are afraid to sign because of existing discrimination. An unsigned letter is better than none at all.

Write to your area Congressman as follows:

TENNESSEE

Rep. Harold E. Ford
Suite 1609
Longworth Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Robin L. Beard
Suite 124
Cannon Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Ed. Jones
Suite 407
Cannon Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

MISSISSIPPI

Rep. Jamie L. Whitten
Suite 2413
Rayburn Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. David Bowen
Suite 116
Cannon Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

ARKANSAS

Rep. Bill Alexander
Suite 127
Cannon Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515